



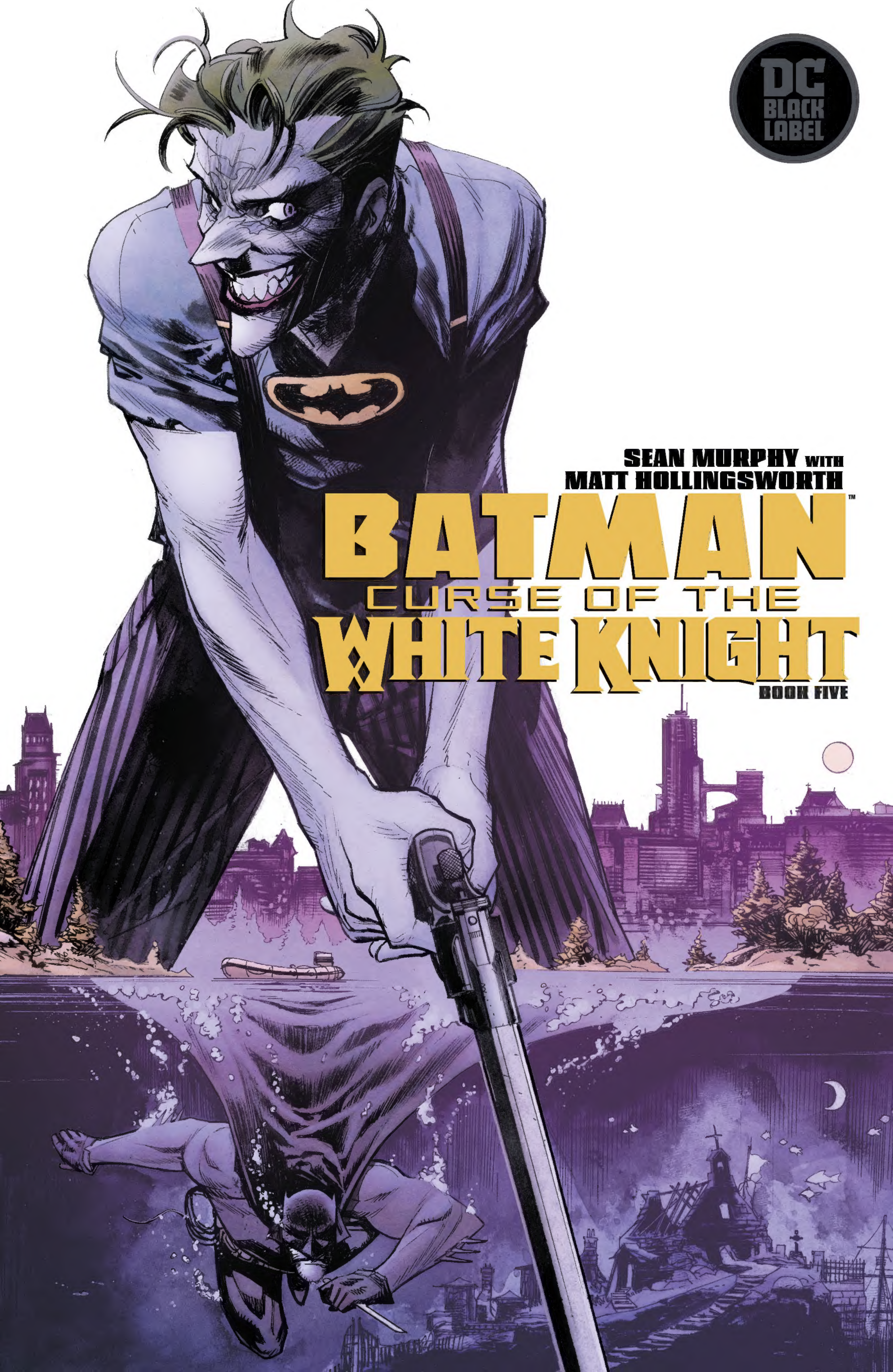
SEAN MURPHY WITH
MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

BATMAN

CURSE OF THE

WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK FIVE



BATMAN
CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK FIVE



YOU OFTEN CAN'T APPRECIATE HOW IMPORTANT SOMEONE IS WHILE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.

AND ONLY BY THEIR PASSING DO YOU SUDDENLY REALIZE THE **STAGGERING MAGNITUDE** OF WHAT YOU'VE JUST LOST.

RIGHT NOW, THAT'S EXACTLY HOW GOTHAM CITY FEELS ABOUT THE DEATH OF **JIM GORDON**.

JIM WAS THE BEST OF US. HE HAD **COMPASSION** FOR EVERY CITIZEN AND AN EYE TOWARD THE **FUTURE**, AND HE WAS WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO GET US THERE.



HE WAS A REMINDER THAT THE **SMOLDERING CAULDRON** OF GOTHAM CITY DOESN'T JUST CREATE VILLAINS LIKE **JOKER** AND **AZRAEL**--IT FORGES **HEROES** LIKE **JIM GORDON**.



Sean Murphy: Script, Art, Covers
Matt Hollingsworth: Colors & Cover Colors
AndWorld Design: Letters

BATMAN

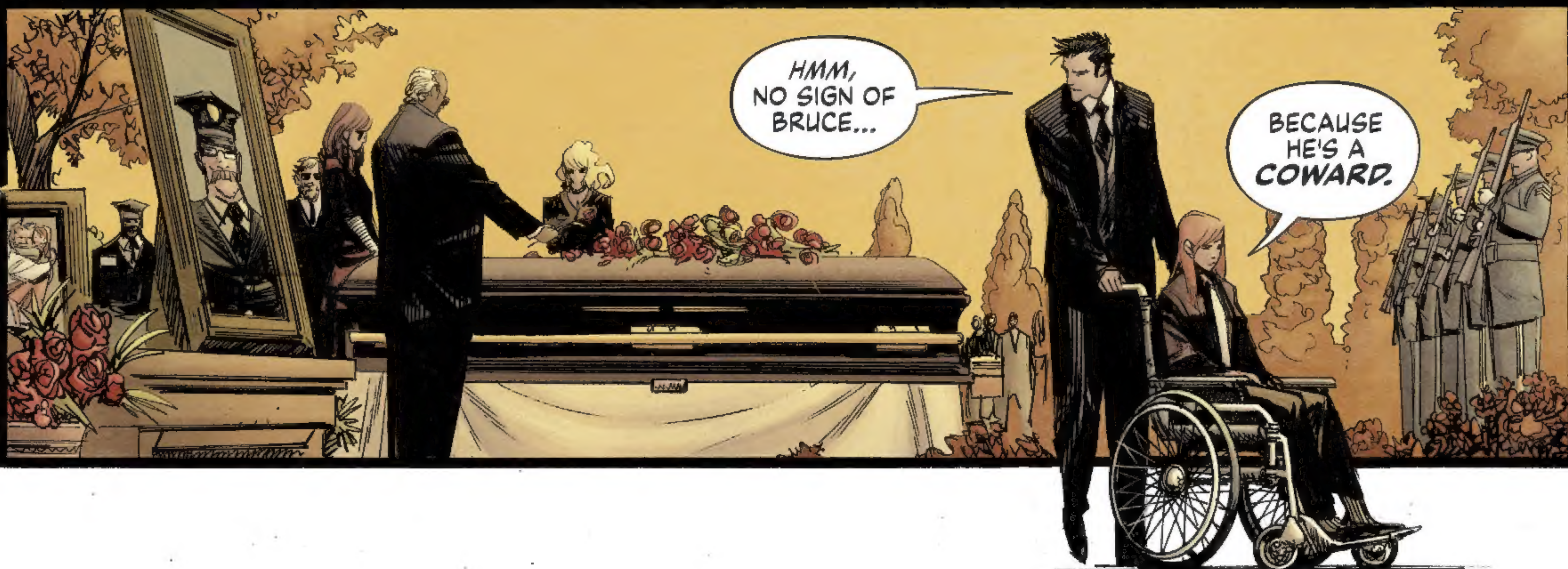
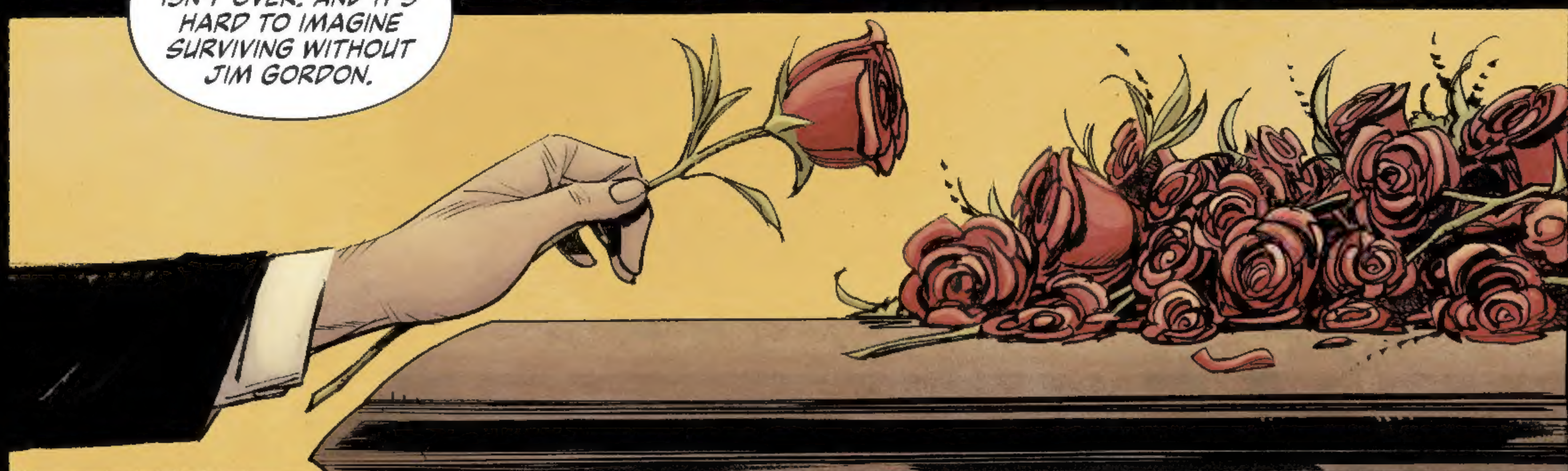
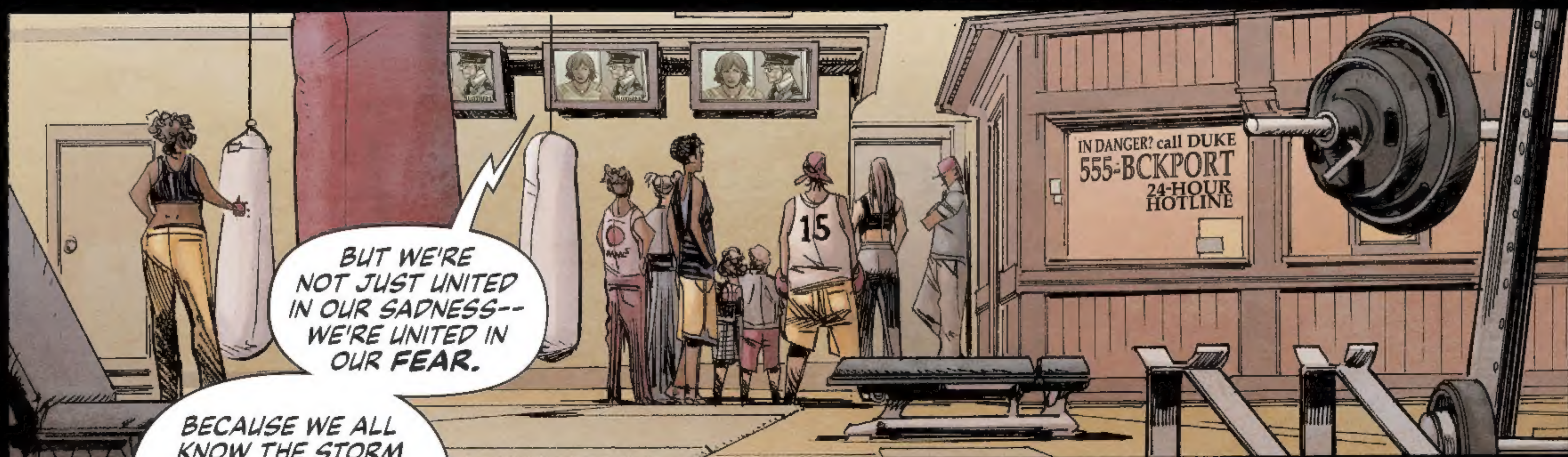
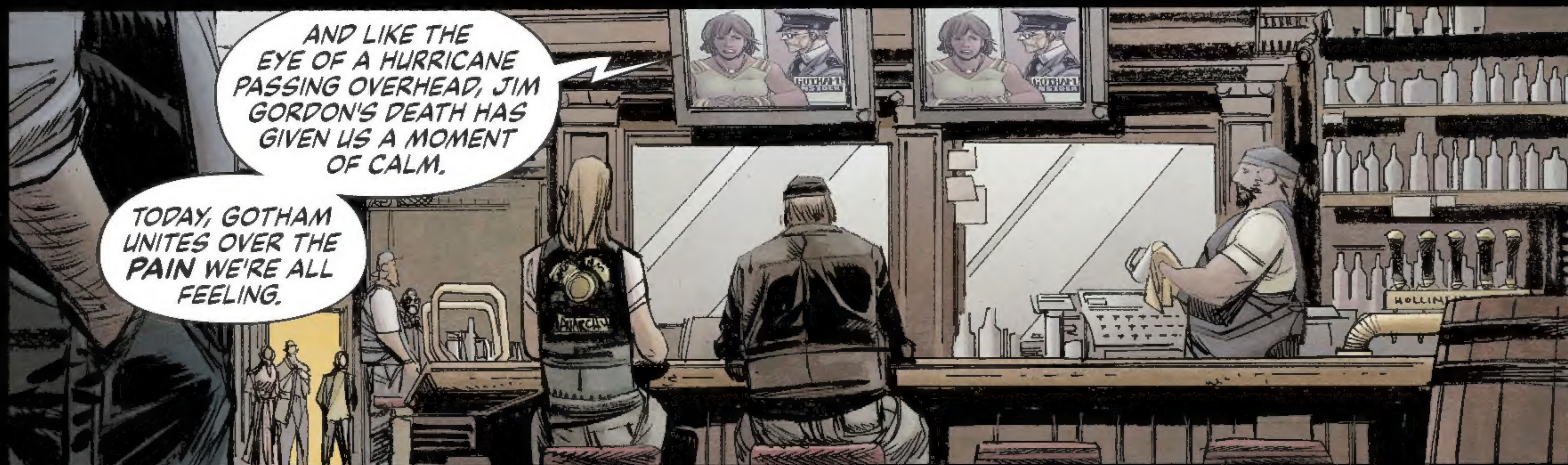
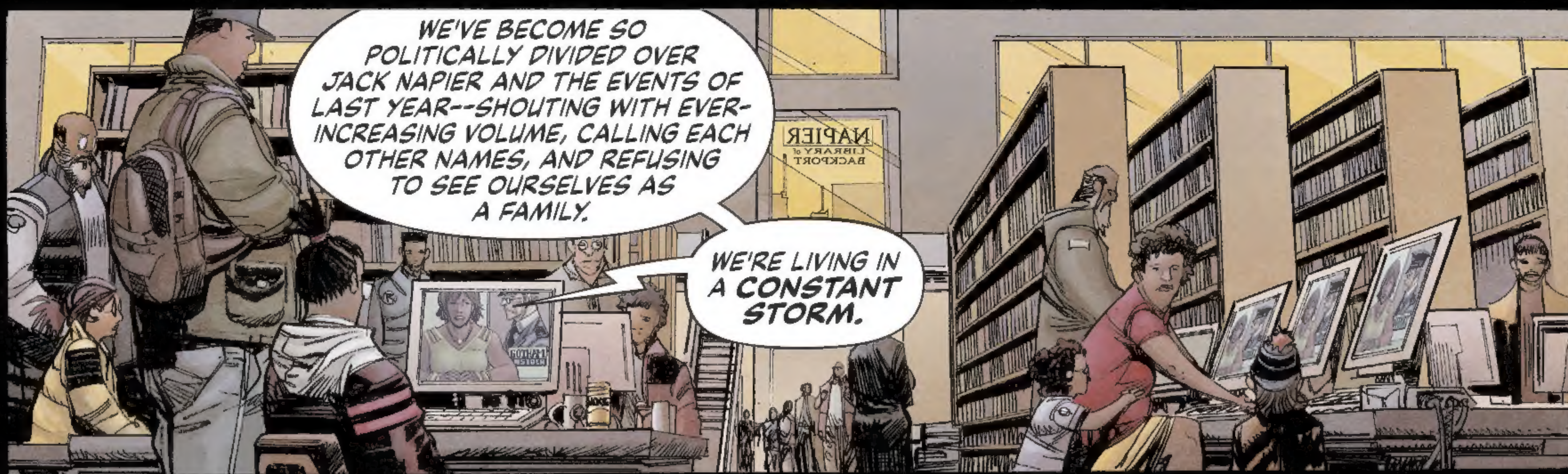
CURSE OF THE

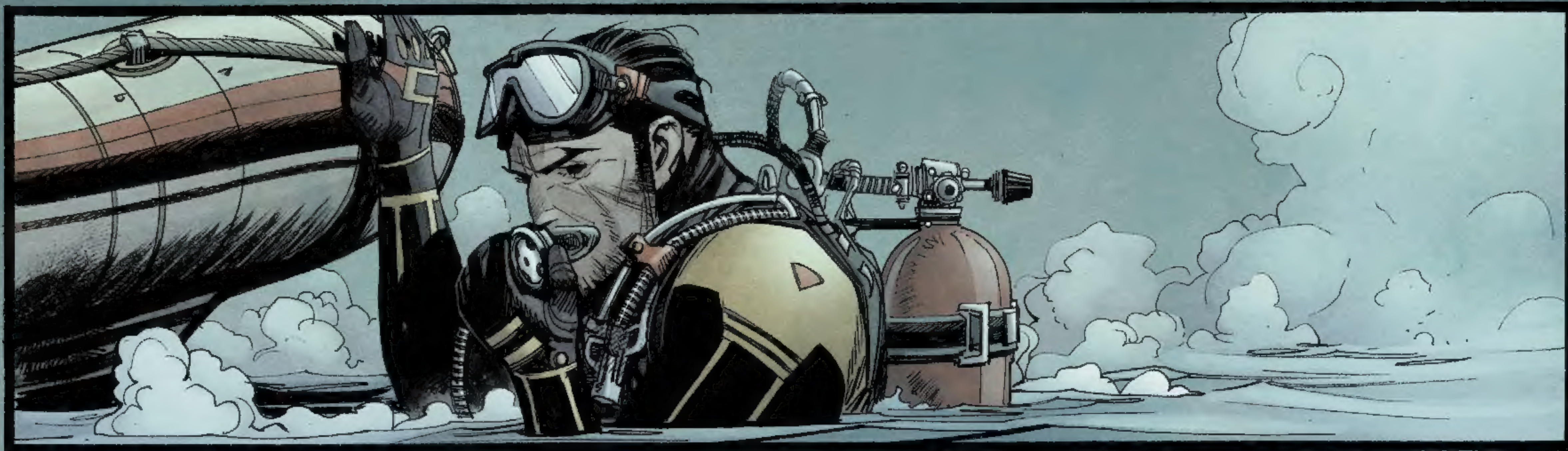
WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK FIVE



Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger





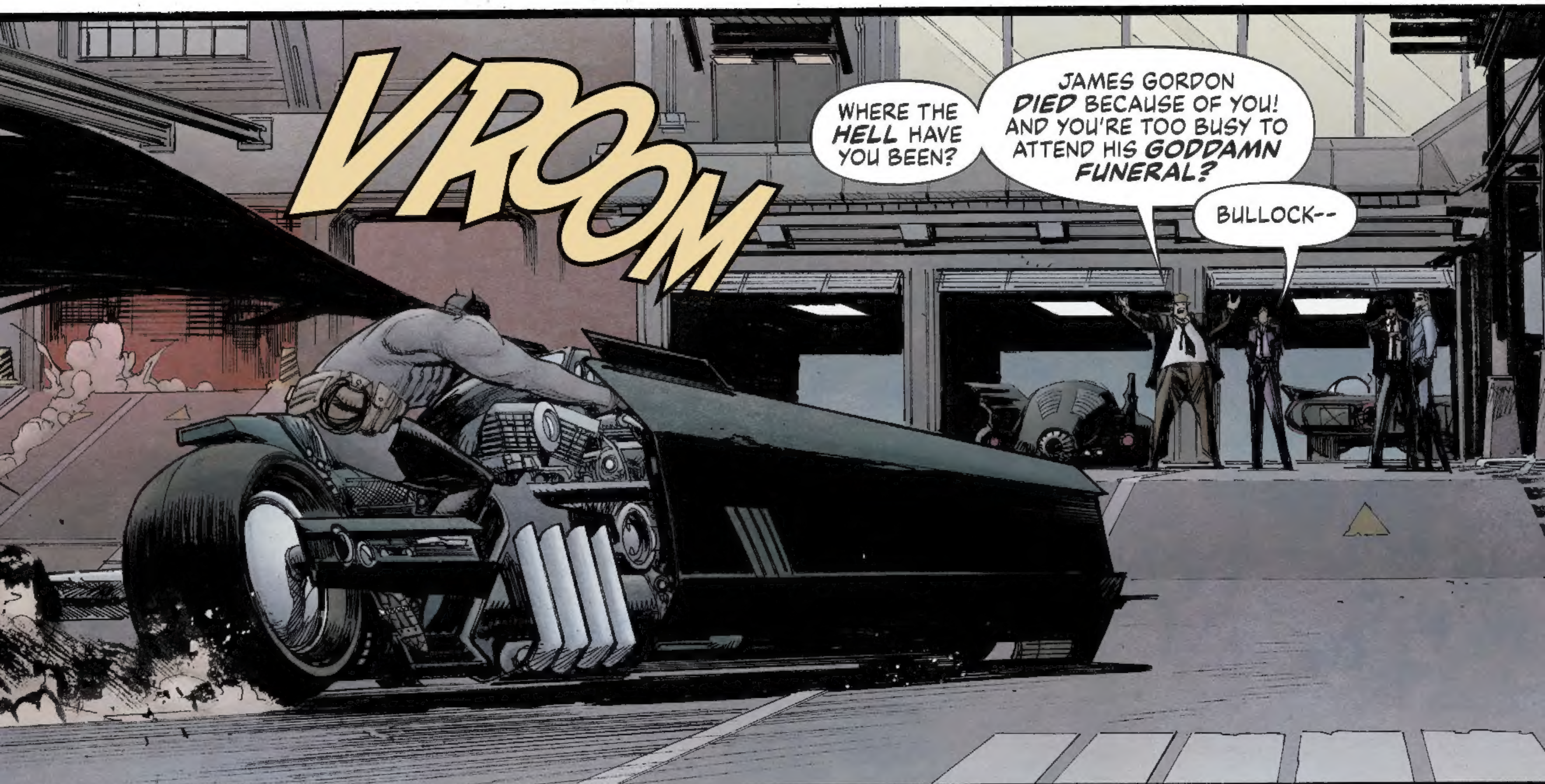
LAFFY
ARKHAM IN
THE WOOD...

...EATING
CHILDREN WHEN
HE COULD...

...UNDERNEATH
A MOON OF
BLOOD...

...SWEEP AWAY
BEFORE THE
FLOOD.

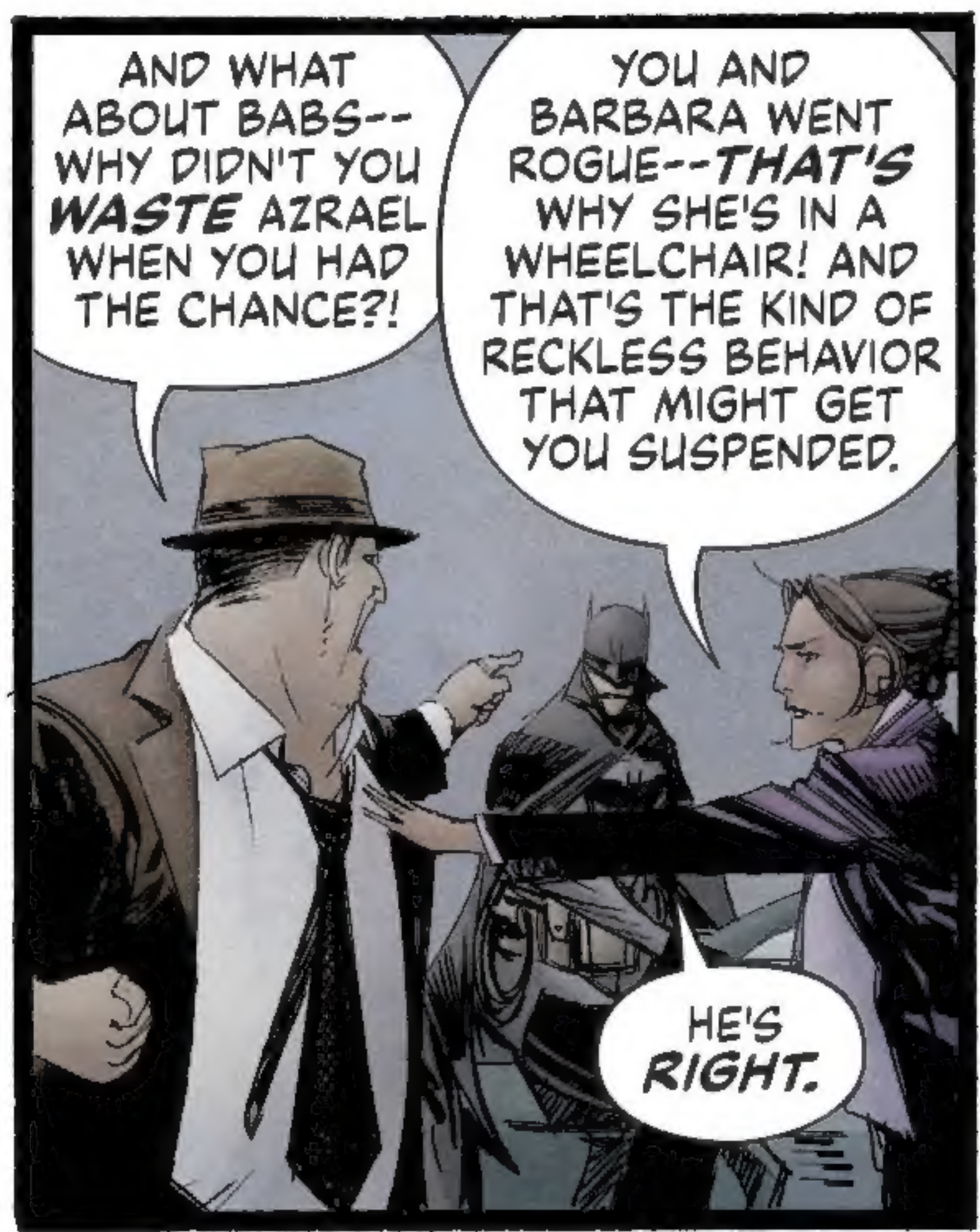




WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?

JAMES GORDON DIED BECAUSE OF YOU! AND YOU'RE TOO BUSY TO ATTEND HIS GODDAMN FUNERAL?

BULLOCK--



AND WHAT ABOUT BABS-- WHY DIDN'T YOU WASTE AZRAEL WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE?!

YOU AND BARBARA WENT ROGUE--THAT'S WHY SHE'S IN A WHEELCHAIR! AND THAT'S THE KIND OF RECKLESS BEHAVIOR THAT MIGHT GET YOU SUSPENDED.

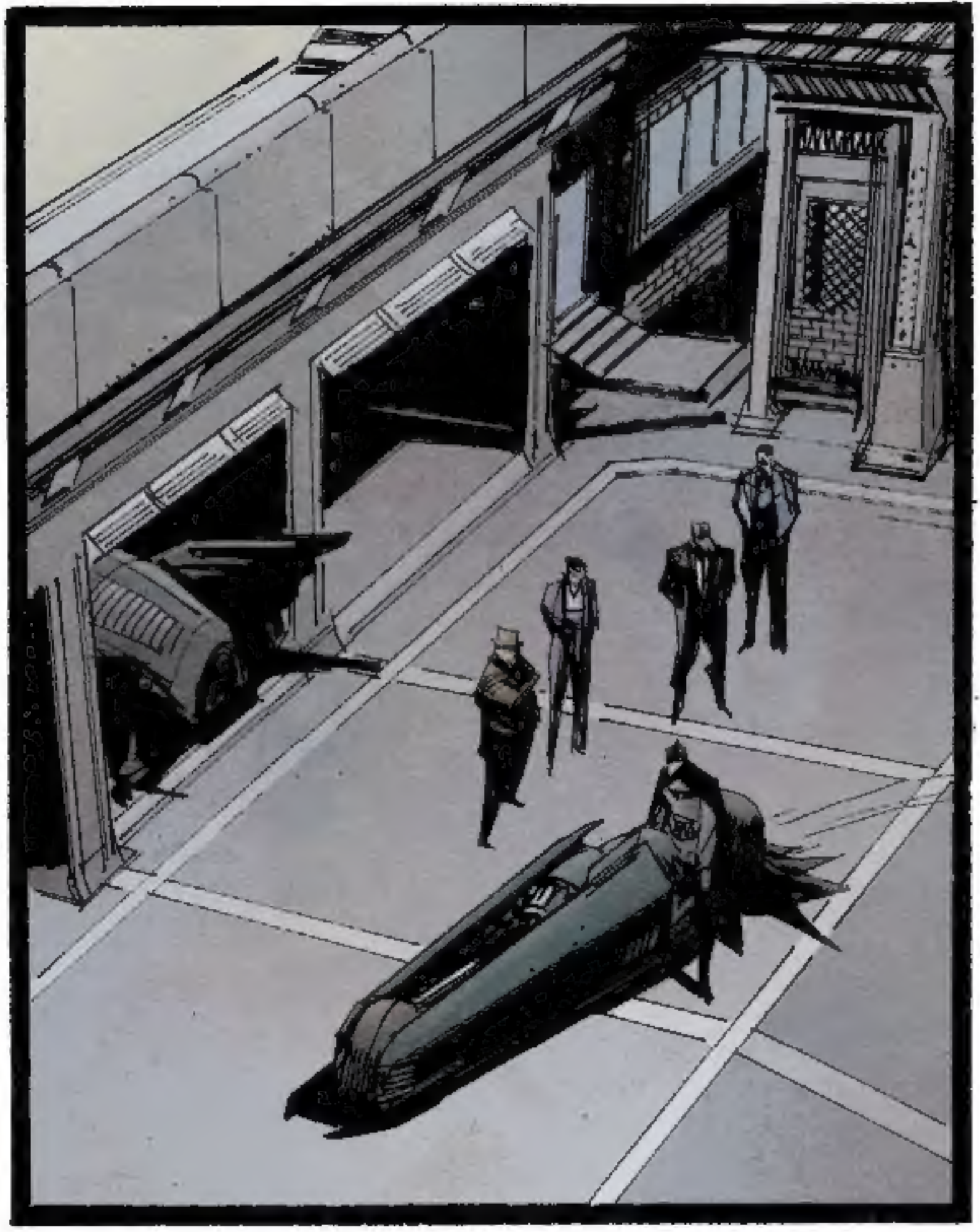
HE'S RIGHT.



I SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE FUNERAL.

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED...I...I JUST WASN'T SURE I'D BE WELCOME. I DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE A FIGHT.

I'M SO SORRY. TO ALL OF YOU.



YOU KNOW WHAT MADE GORDON A GREAT LEADER? HE UNDERSTOOD TWO THINGS--TRUST AND COMPROMISE.

HE ACCEPTED THAT THE GOOD GUYS DIDN'T ALWAYS GET ALONG--THEY JUST NEEDED TO TRUST EACH OTHER. AND THAT MOVING FORWARD SOMETIMES MEANT EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES.



SO HOW THE HELL DO WE MOVE FORWARD?

BY FOCUSING ON THE WORK.

WE'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT GOTHAM BEGAN AS A SMALL VILLAGE ON THE COAST. THAT'S WHY THE JOURNAL'S MAP IS SO STRANGE--IT PLACES THE VILLAGE IN THE **WRONG PLACE**, ON THE EDGE OF A LARGE BAY THAT EXTENDED INLAND. IN AN AREA WE NOW KNOW AS **GOTHAM RESERVOIR**.

BUT THE JOURNAL IS ACCURATE--I FOUND THE LOST SETTLEMENT BENEATH THE RESERVOIR. SOMEONE TRIED TO **ERASE** OUR EARLY HISTORY BY **FLOODING** IT.

WHO?

"**EDMOND WAYNE**."

"WITH **ARKHAM** DEAD, EDMOND HAD RECLAIMED HIS INHERITANCE. BUT RATHER THAN HONORING HIS PROMISE TO GIVE BAKKAR HALF OF GOTHAM, EDMOND KILLED HIM.

"AS LORD OF GOTHAM, HE CONVINCED THE BRITISH TO HELP HIM PURGE THE ENTIRE VALLEY SO THEY COULD TURN IT INTO ONE OF THE MOST **VALUABLE** PORTS IN THE NEW WORLD.

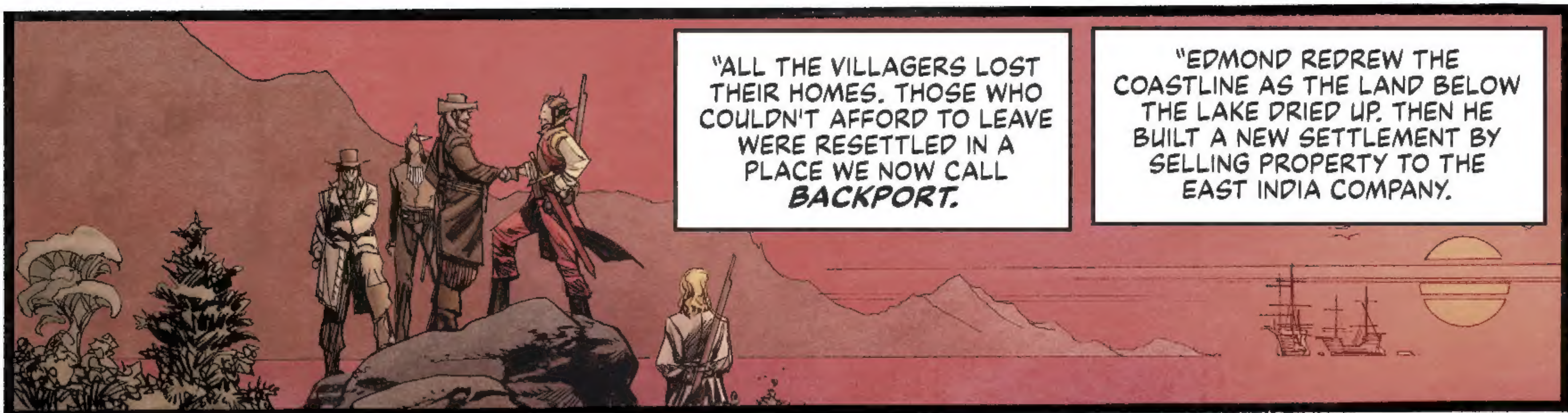


"HE ERASED ALL EVIDENCE OF BAKKAR AND THE CHAPEL OF **ST. DUMAS** BY DAMMING THE RIVER AND FLOODING THE VALLEY.



"ALL THE VILLAGERS LOST THEIR HOMES. THOSE WHO COULDN'T AFFORD TO LEAVE WERE RESETTLED IN A PLACE WE NOW CALL **BACKPORT**."

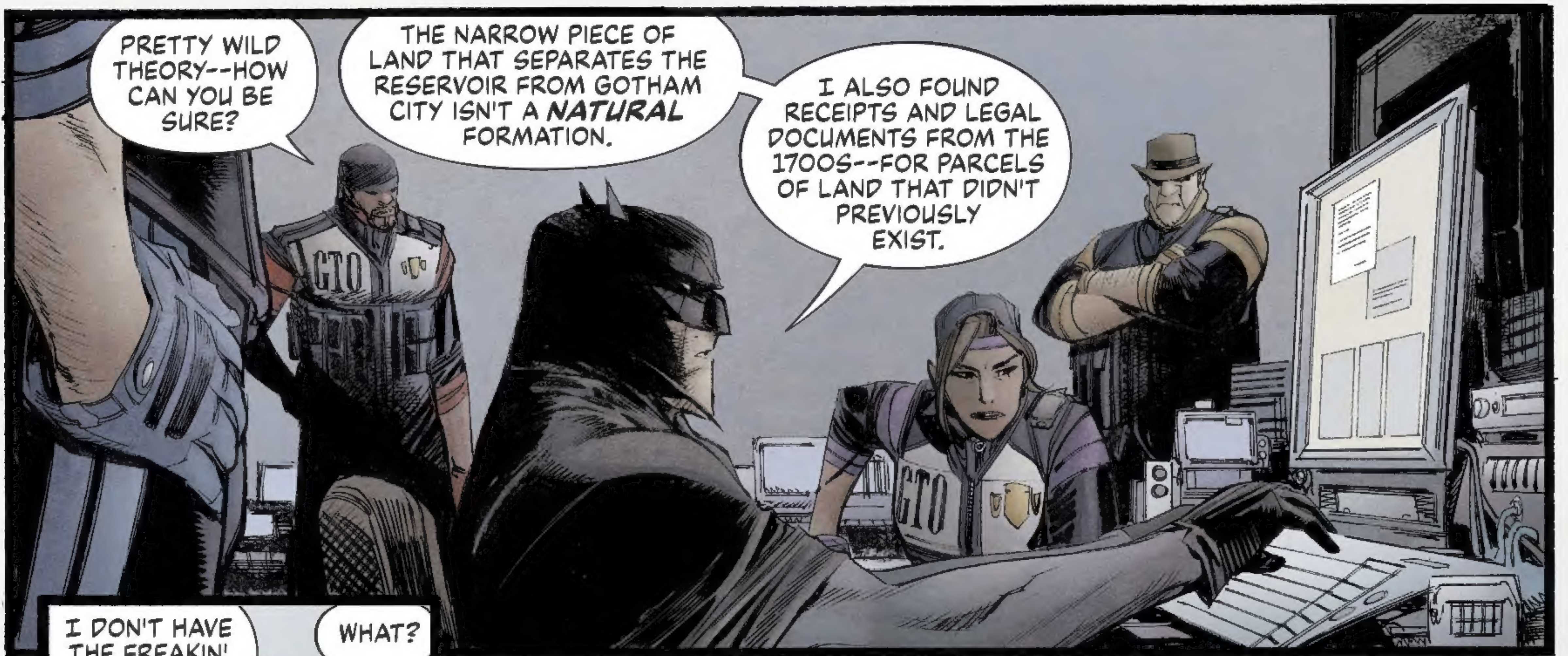
"EDMOND REDREW THE COASTLINE AS THE LAND BELOW THE LAKE DRIED UP. THEN HE BUILT A NEW SETTLEMENT BY SELLING PROPERTY TO THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.



"THAT'S THE **TRUTH** ABOUT GOTHAM, ABOUT HOW THE **WAYNE FORTUNE** STARTED IN THE NEW WORLD.

"AND THAT'S WHY JOKER SENT AZRAEL AFTER ME--BY REVIVING THE DESCENDANT OF BAKKAR, JOKER WANTS TO **EXPOSE** THE COVER-UP AND **DESTROY** THE WAYNE LEGACY."





PRETTY WILD THEORY--HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?

THE NARROW PIECE OF LAND THAT SEPARATES THE RESERVOIR FROM GOTHAM CITY ISN'T A **NATURAL** FORMATION.

I ALSO FOUND RECEIPTS AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE 1700S--FOR PARCELS OF LAND THAT DIDN'T PREVIOUSLY EXIST.



I DON'T HAVE THE FREAKIN' PATIENCE FOR THIS...

WHAT?

LAND DEALS? RELIGIOUS CULTS? A **VAMPIRE** NAMED **LAFFY**?!

NOT TO MENTION WHIGS, TORIES, AND SOME UNDERWATER **SCOOPY-DOO** MYSTERY FROM **SIXTEEN-WHO-GIVES-A-SHIT**.

HOW DOES ANY OF THIS HELP US FIND **AZRAEL**?

NOW WE HAVE **MOTIVE**.



JOKER SAID SOMETHING DURING THE INTERROGATION--"GOTHAM IS DROWNING IN SECRETS." IS THIS WHAT HE MEANT?

YES.

WONDER WHY HE GAVE YOU THAT CLUE.



THE CLUE DIDN'T COME FROM **THE JOKER**.

"I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF **JACK NAPIER**..."

SWISH



...HE'D WRITTEN ME A LOVE LETTER. A **CRY FOR HELP**. AND HE WROTE IT ON A PLAYING CARD.

THE THREE OF DIAMONDS.

LOOK FAMILIAR?



YOUR COSTUME.

WEARING THE DIAMONDS WAS A WAY TO REMIND MYSELF THAT NO MATTER HOW BAD IT GOT, JACK NAPIER WAS **ALIVE**.

THAT'S WHY I CREATED THE PILLS LAST YEAR--BECAUSE I THOUGHT WE COULD FINALLY BE **JACK** AND **HARLEEN**.



BUT I **FAILED**.

JOKER WAS RIGHT--I'M WEAK. AND I'LL **ALWAYS** BE THE **VICTIM**.

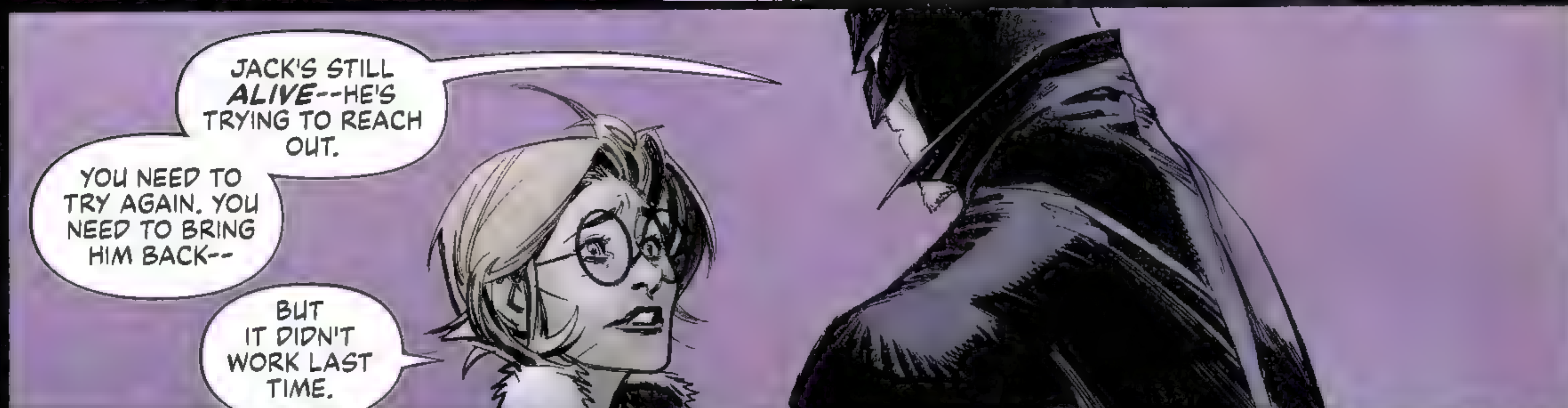
HE'S WRONG.



YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH THE **DEVIL**. AND NOT ONLY DID YOU SURVIVE, YOU CAME OUT STRONGER--**YOU BEAT HIM**.

AND YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



JACK'S STILL **ALIVE**--HE'S TRYING TO REACH OUT.

YOU NEED TO TRY AGAIN. YOU NEED TO BRING HIM BACK--

BUT IT DIDN'T WORK LAST TIME.



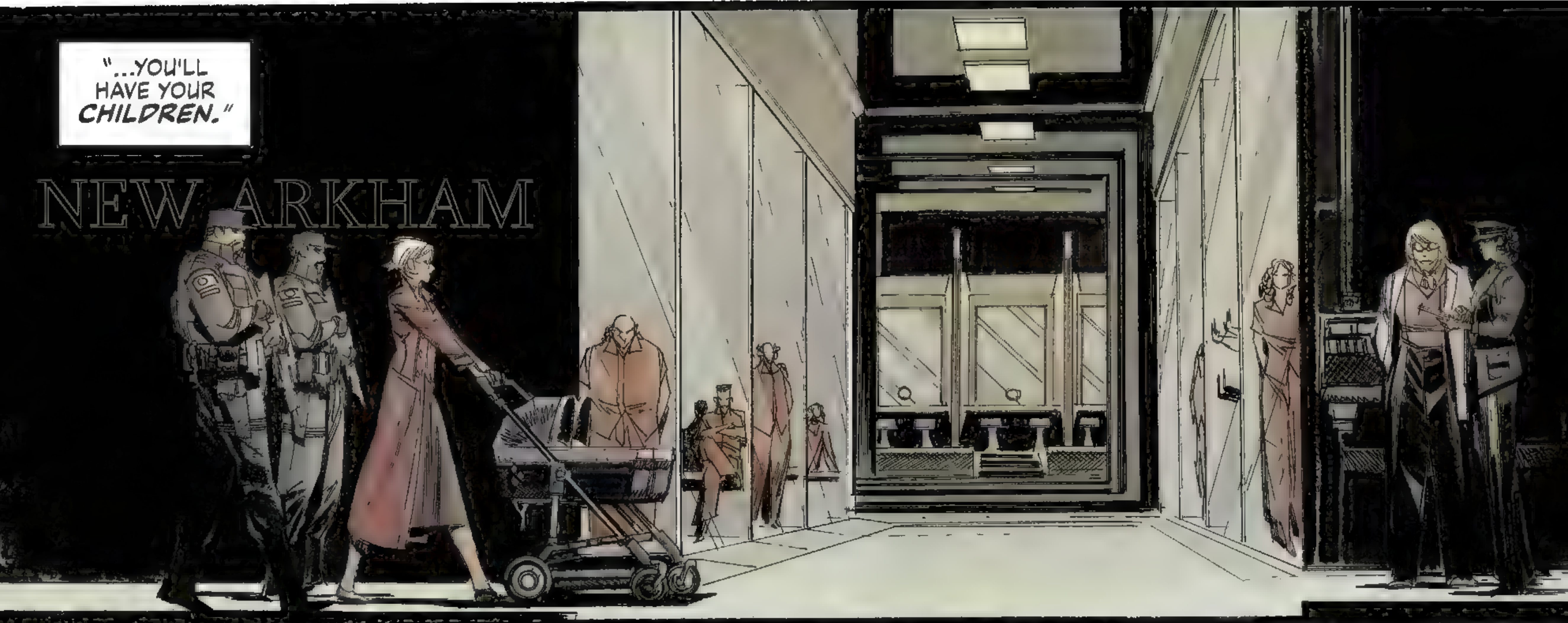
BECAUSE **I** WAS THERE. JOKER CAN'T RESIST ME.

BUT...I DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT ALONE.

YOU WON'T BE ALONE...

"...YOU'LL
HAVE YOUR
CHILDREN."

NEW ARKHAM



WHERE IS HE,
JACK? WHERE'S
AZRAEL?

AND THE
MESSAGE WRITTEN
IN BLOOD--**WHAT
DID IT SAY?**



**JESUS, YOU
AGAIN? THOUGHT
I MADE MYSELF
CLEAR.**



WHERE
IS HE?

BATMAN'S
NOT
COMING.

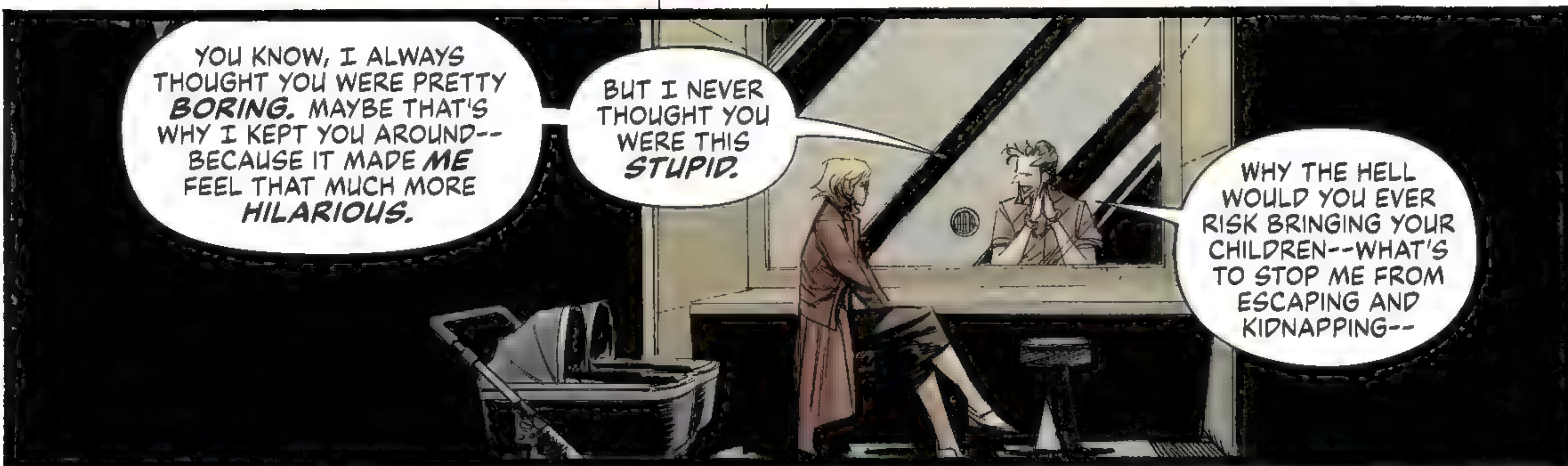
...



YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS
THOUGHT YOU WERE PRETTY
BORING. MAYBE THAT'S
WHY I KEPT YOU AROUND--
BECAUSE IT MADE **ME**
FEEL THAT MUCH MORE
HILARIOUS.

BUT I NEVER
THOUGHT YOU
WERE THIS
STUPID.

WHY THE HELL
WOULD YOU EVER
RISK BRINGING YOUR
CHILDREN--WHAT'S
TO STOP ME FROM
ESCAPING AND
KIDNAPPING--



YOU
WON'T.

AND WHY'S
THAT?

BECAUSE
JACK WOULDN'T
LET YOU.



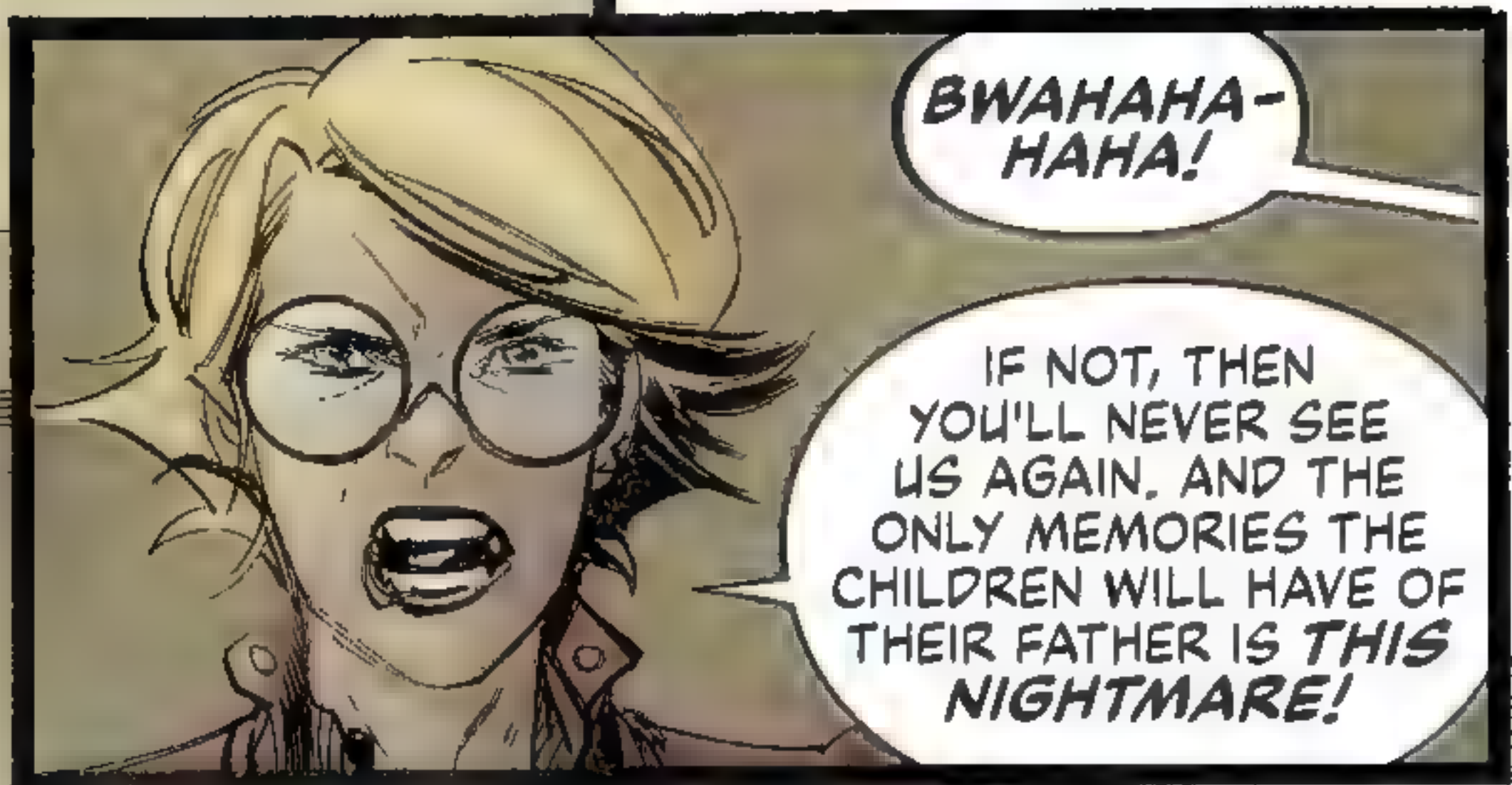


BWAHAHAHA!

COME ON,
JACK. YOU CAN
DO IT.

HAHAHAHA!

I KNOW
YOU'RE IN
THERE.



BWAHAHA-
HAHA!

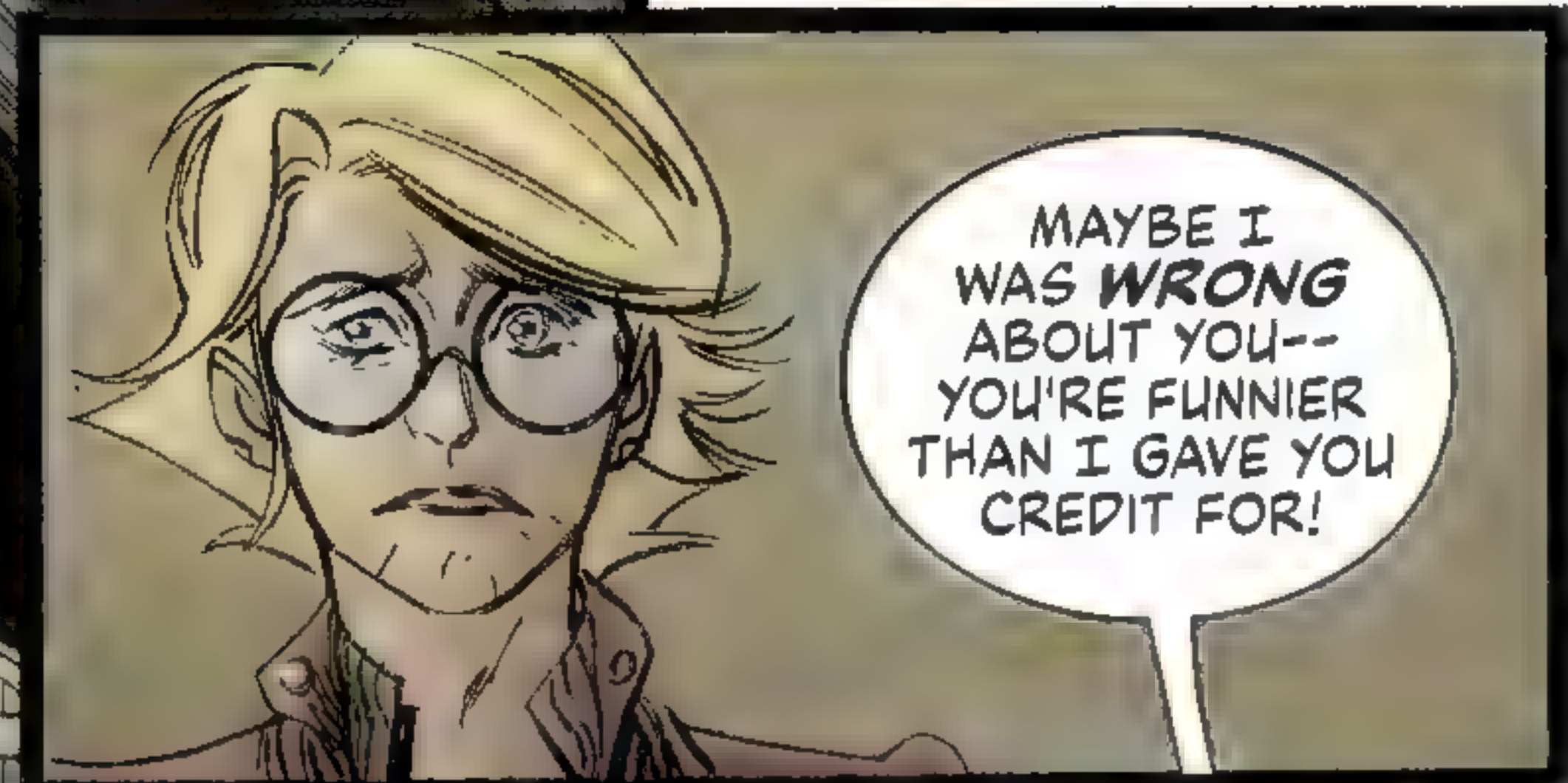
IF NOT, THEN
YOU'LL NEVER SEE
US AGAIN. AND THE
ONLY MEMORIES THE
CHILDREN WILL HAVE OF
THEIR FATHER IS *THIS*
NIGHTMARE!



BWAHA-
HAHAHA!

OH MY GOD,
I LOVE IT...

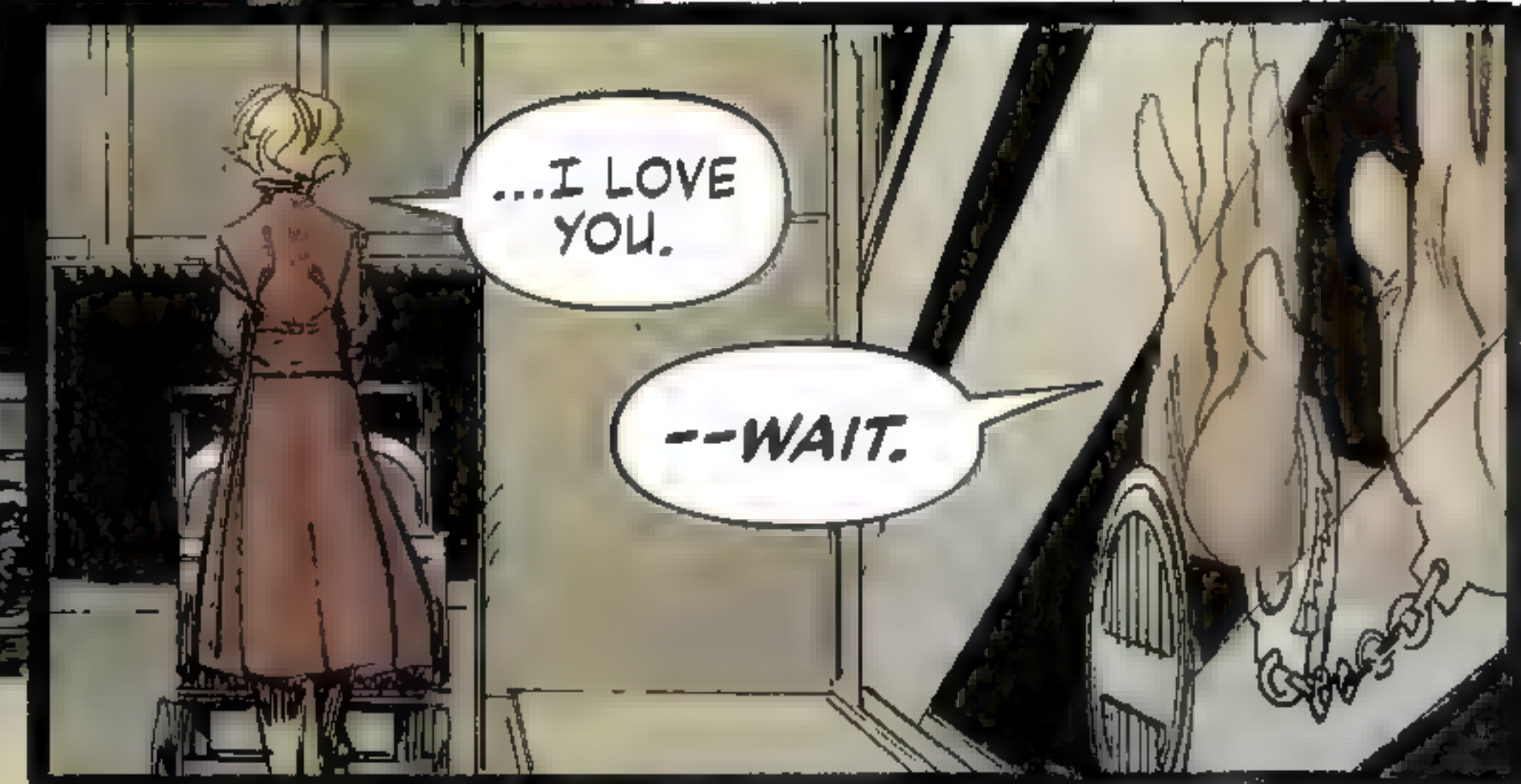
...THAT
HOPEFUL
LOOK ON YOUR
CHERUB
FACE.



MAYBE I
WAS **WRONG**
ABOUT YOU--
YOU'RE FUNNIER
THAN I GAVE YOU
CREDIT FOR!



OKAY.
GOODBYE,
JACK.



...I LOVE
YOU.

--WAIT.



I LOVE
YOU TOO.



BEFORE HE DIED, GORDON PUT A ROUND INTO AZRAEL. DNA FROM THE BLOOD JUST CAME BACK.

ATTA BOY, COMMISH.



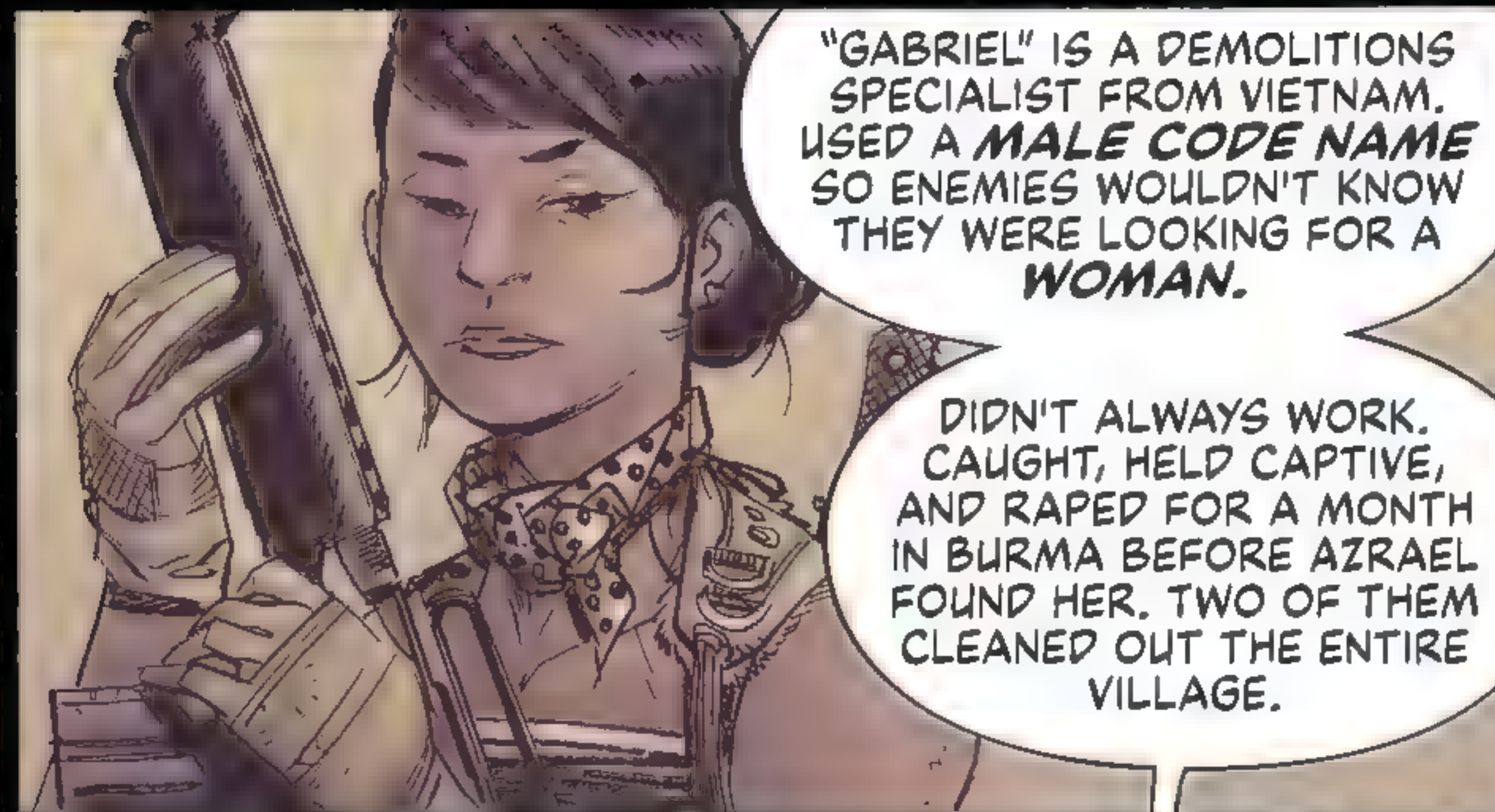
JEAN-PAUL VALLEY-- A GREEN BERET WAR VET. SPECIALIZED IN DISRUPTING ENEMY NETWORKS. VIETNAM, RUSSIA, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN-- THE KIND OF OPS GOVERNMENTS DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE.

MILITARY BUDDY HOOKED ME UP WITH CLASSIFIED FILES.



LED A SMALL UNIT CALLED THE **BLOOD ANGELS**.

ALL OF 'EM REAL CHEST BEATERS--EVEN USED BIBLICAL CODE NAMES. MOST OF THEM K.I.A.--ONLY THREE LEFT.



"GABRIEL" IS A DEMOLITIONS SPECIALIST FROM VIETNAM. USED A **MALE CODE NAME** SO ENEMIES WOULDN'T KNOW THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A **WOMAN**.

DIDN'T ALWAYS WORK. CAUGHT, HELD CAPTIVE, AND RAPED FOR A MONTH IN BURMA BEFORE AZRAEL FOUND HER. TWO OF THEM CLEANED OUT THE ENTIRE VILLAGE.



THEN THERE'S "MICHAEL," A PURPLE HEART. HAD HIS LARYNX TORN OUT IN KORENGAL DURING A FIREFIGHT.

AZRAEL TOOK OUT A DOZEN AL QAEDA TO RESCUE HIM--KILLED EACH ONE BY TEARING OUT HIS THROAT.



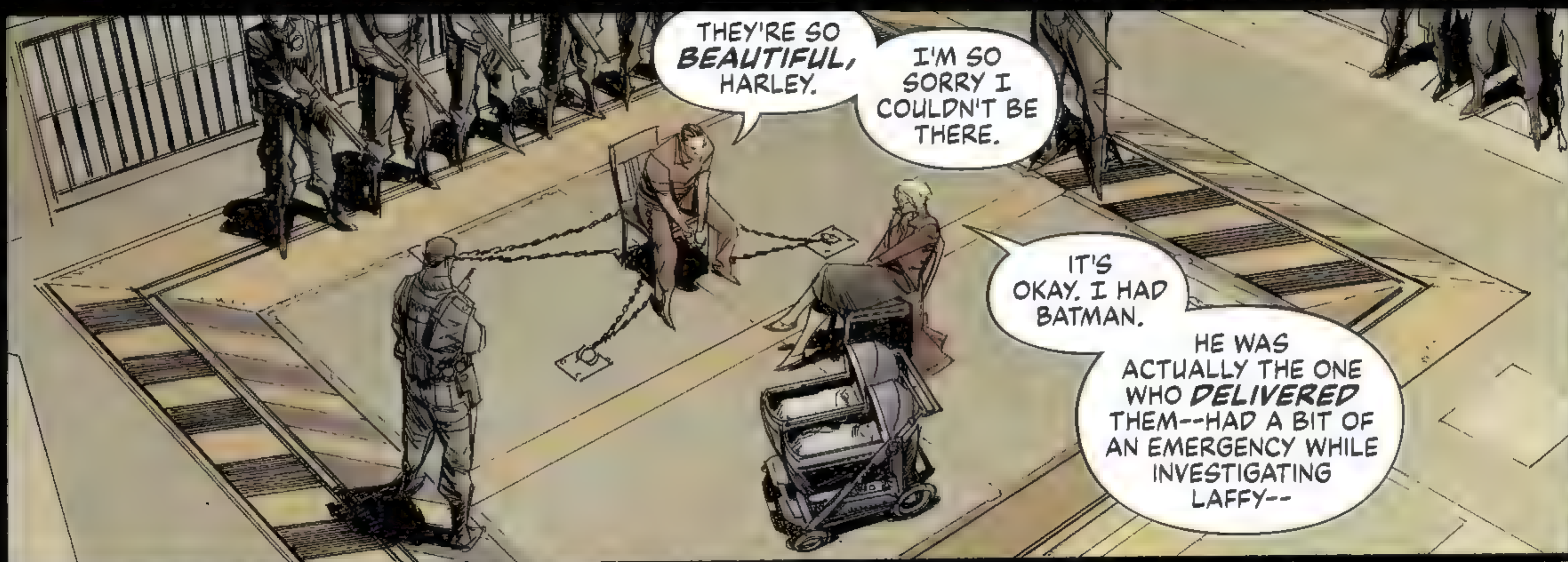
JESUS--I'M SENSING A REAL "EYE FOR AN EYE" TYPE OF GUY.

WHOEVER'S BACKING HIM IS PROVIDING SOME PRETTY **MAJOR** HARDWARE. CHECK LOCAL WEAPON DEPOTS AND MILITARY SURPLUS.

ONE MORE THING...

...RECORDS FROM ST. RAPHAEL'S HOSPITAL.

JEAN-PAUL VALLEY HAS CANCER. **TERMINAL**.



THEY'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, HARLEY.

I'M SO SORRY I COULDN'T BE THERE.

IT'S OKAY. I HAD BATMAN.

HE WAS ACTUALLY THE ONE WHO **DELIVERED** THEM--HAD A BIT OF AN EMERGENCY WHILE INVESTIGATING LAFFY--



BATMAN DELIVERED MY CHILDREN?!

BORN EXACTLY WHERE JOKER WAS BORN-- AT LAFFY'S GRAVE?!

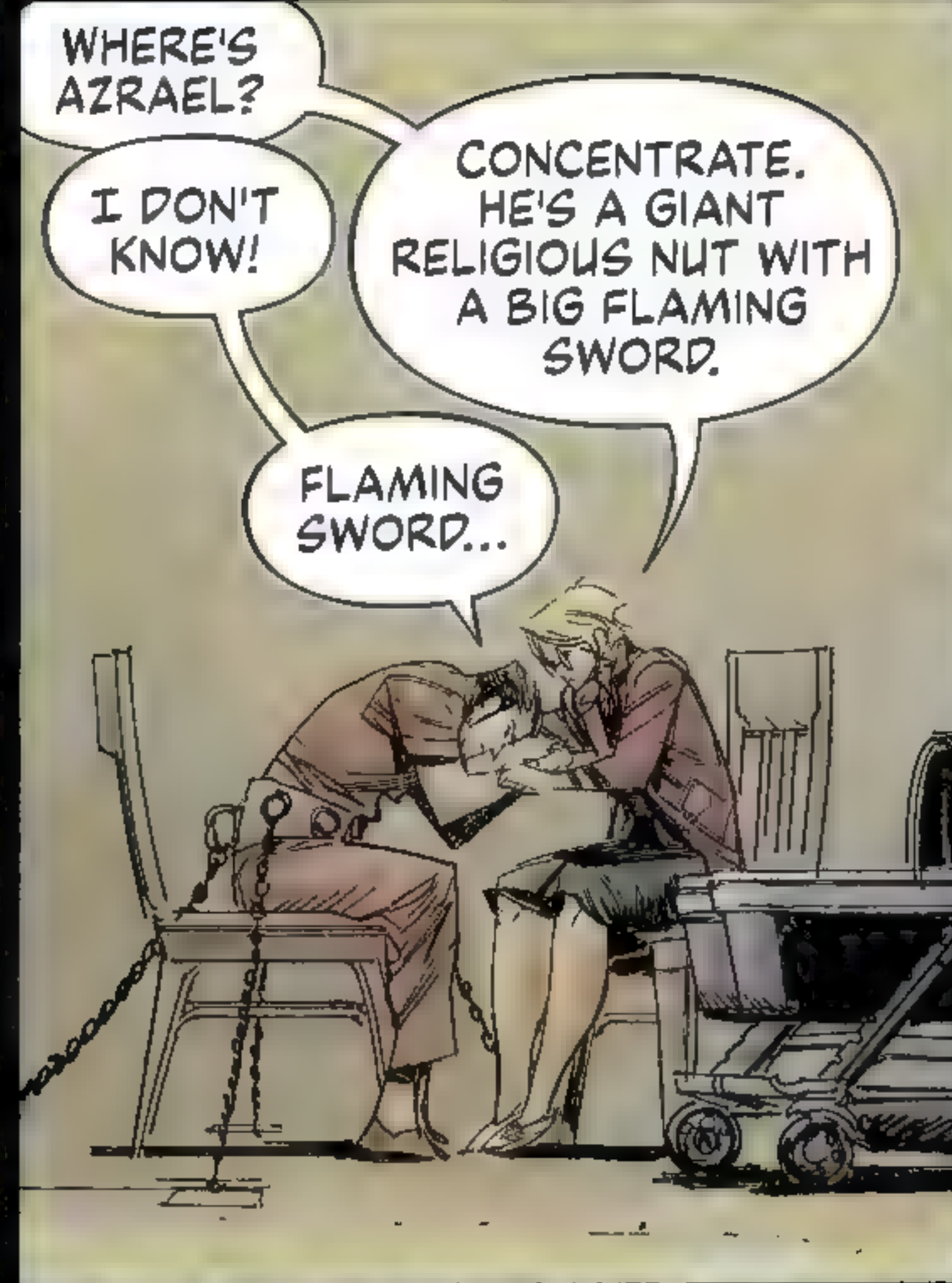
JESUS, IF THAT ISN'T DRIPPING WITH IRONY. MAYBE THERE REALLY IS A CURSE.



I KNOW THERE'S MORE GOING ON HERE THAN WE REALIZE-- YOU NEED TO HELP US!

I CAN'T-- JOKER KNOWS EVERYTHING I KNOW, BUT IT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK THE OTHER WAY!

BATMAN HELPED YOU REACH HIM BEFORE. HERE-- TAKE MY HAND.



WHERE'S AZRAEL?

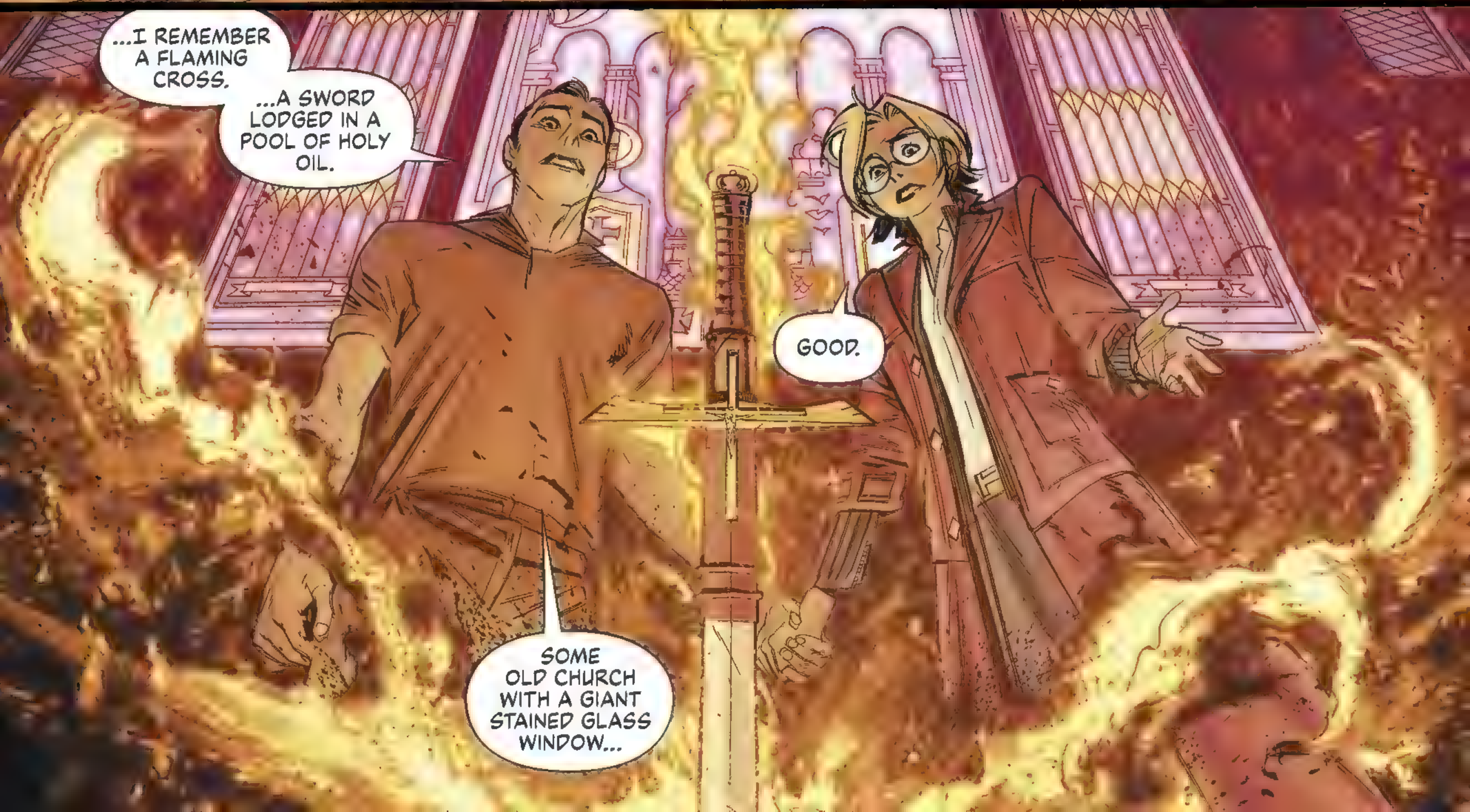
I DON'T KNOW!

CONCENTRATE. HE'S A GIANT RELIGIOUS NUT WITH A BIG FLAMING SWORD.

FLAMING SWORD...



WAIT...



...I REMEMBER A FLAMING CROSS.

...A SWORD LODGED IN A POOL OF HOLY OIL.

GOOD.

SOME OLD CHURCH WITH A GIANT STAINED GLASS WINDOW...

ST. JEROME'S CHAPEL IN OLD GOTHAM! I THINK THAT'S WHERE HE FOUND AZRAEL.

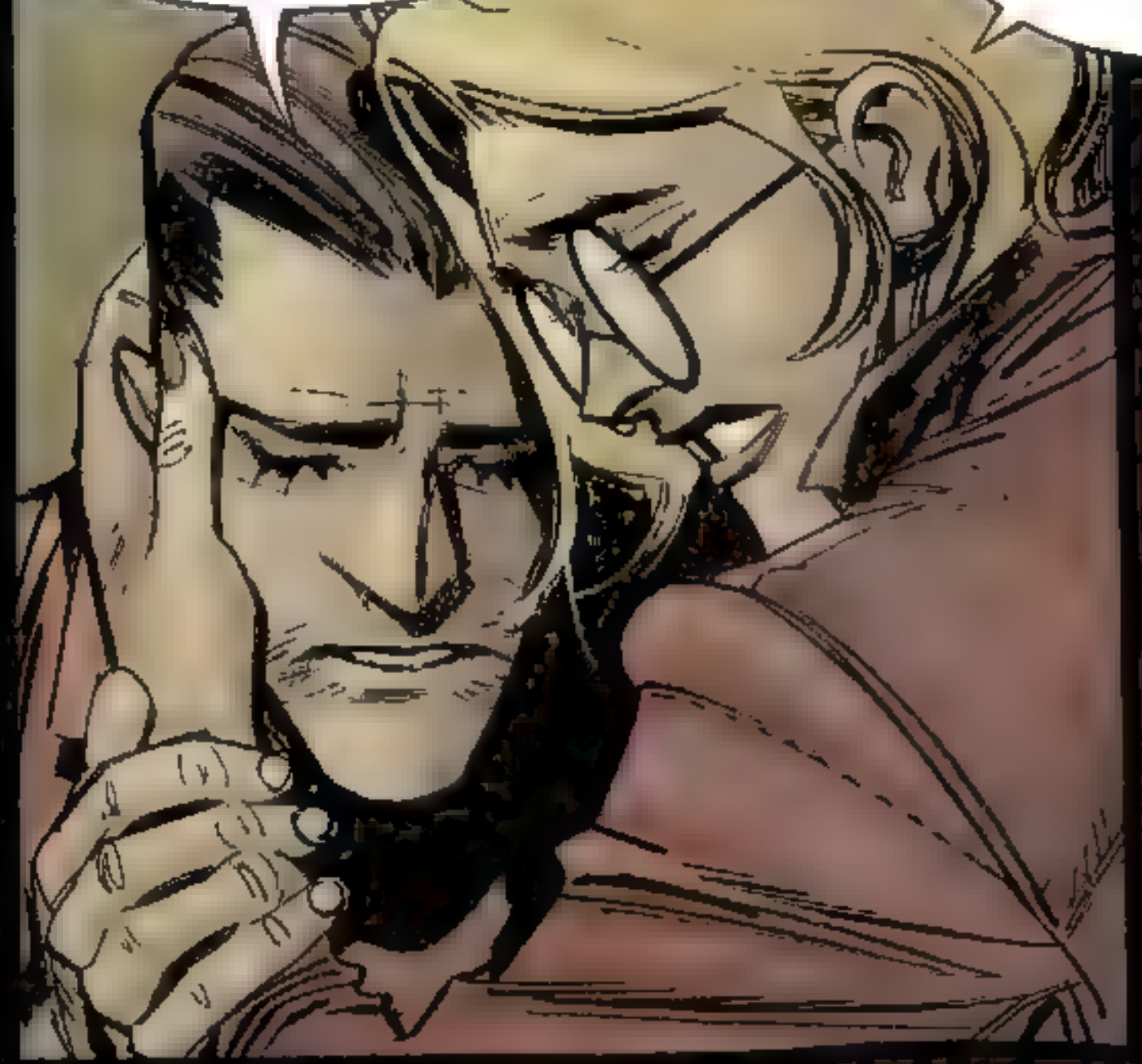
WHAT ABOUT THE MESSAGE ON THE WALL? THE ONE WRITTEN IN BLOOD.

CAN YOU SEE IT?

...

YES.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?



...

OH MY GOD. BUT THAT WOULD MEAN...

...OH NO.



WHAT DOES IT SAY?!

I'LL TELL YOU, BUT YOU **CAN'T** TELL BATMAN.



WHAT? WHY?

BECAUSE...

...IT WILL **DESTROY** HIM.





WE'RE
ENDING OUR
ARRANGEMENT.
YOU'VE BECOME
A **LIABILITY**.

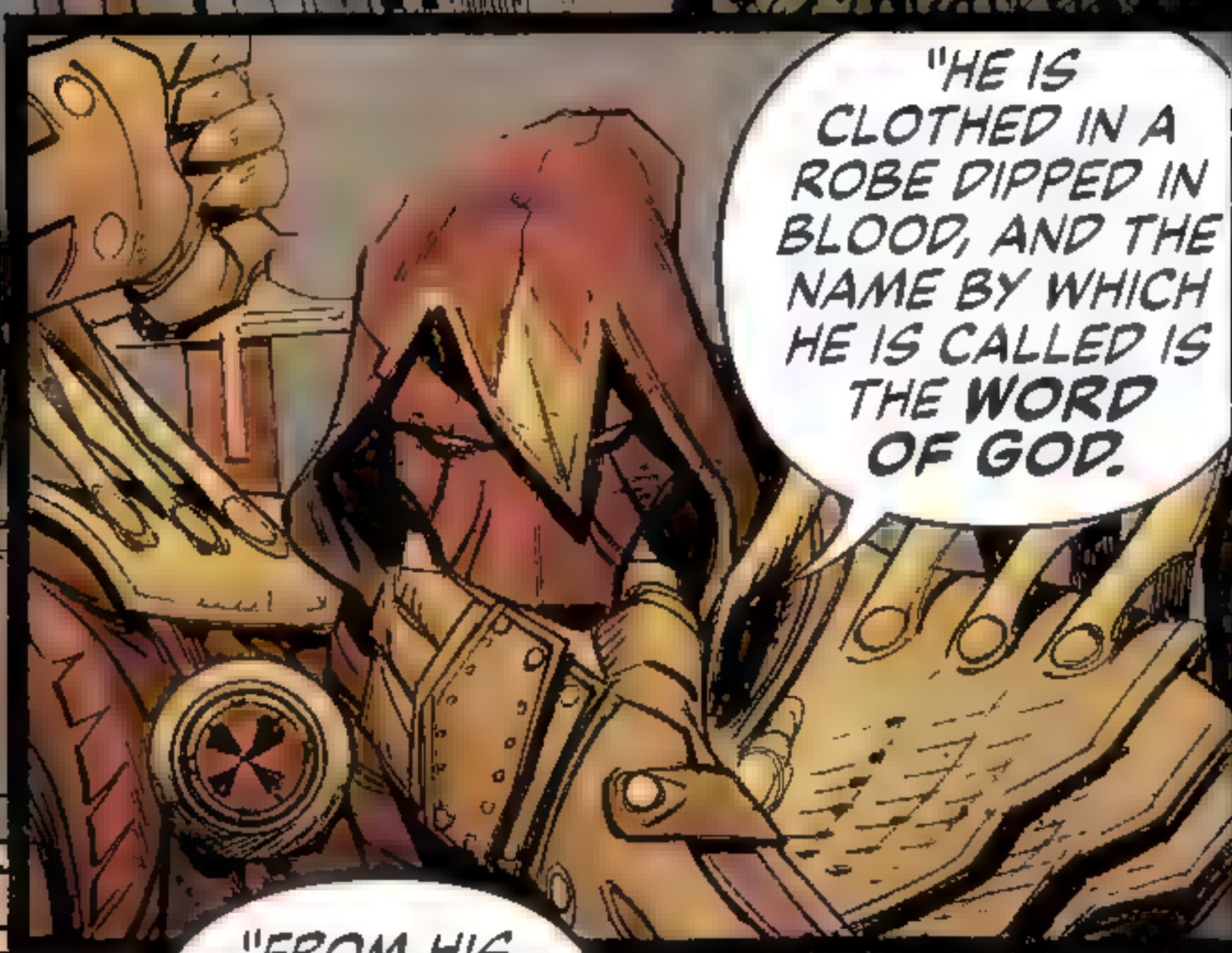
THIS IS MY LAND
AND MY WAR. AND
WE'RE DOING IT
MY WAY.



THERE IS NO WAR
WITHOUT **MONEY**,
JEAN-PAUL. YOU WERE
AN **INVESTMENT** TO
FIGHT THE NAPIER
INITIATIVE.

WE PAID YOU TO
QUIETLY ELIMINATE
BATMAN SO YOU COULD
REPLACE HIM...

...NOT TO
WREAK HAVOC
ALL OVER GOTHAM
WITH A FLAMING SWORD
LIKE SOME **PSYCHO**
SET LOOSE IN A
RENAISSANCE
FAIR!



"HE IS
CLOTHED IN A
ROBE DIPPED IN
BLOOD, AND THE
NAME BY WHICH
HE IS CALLED IS
THE **WORD**
OF GOD.

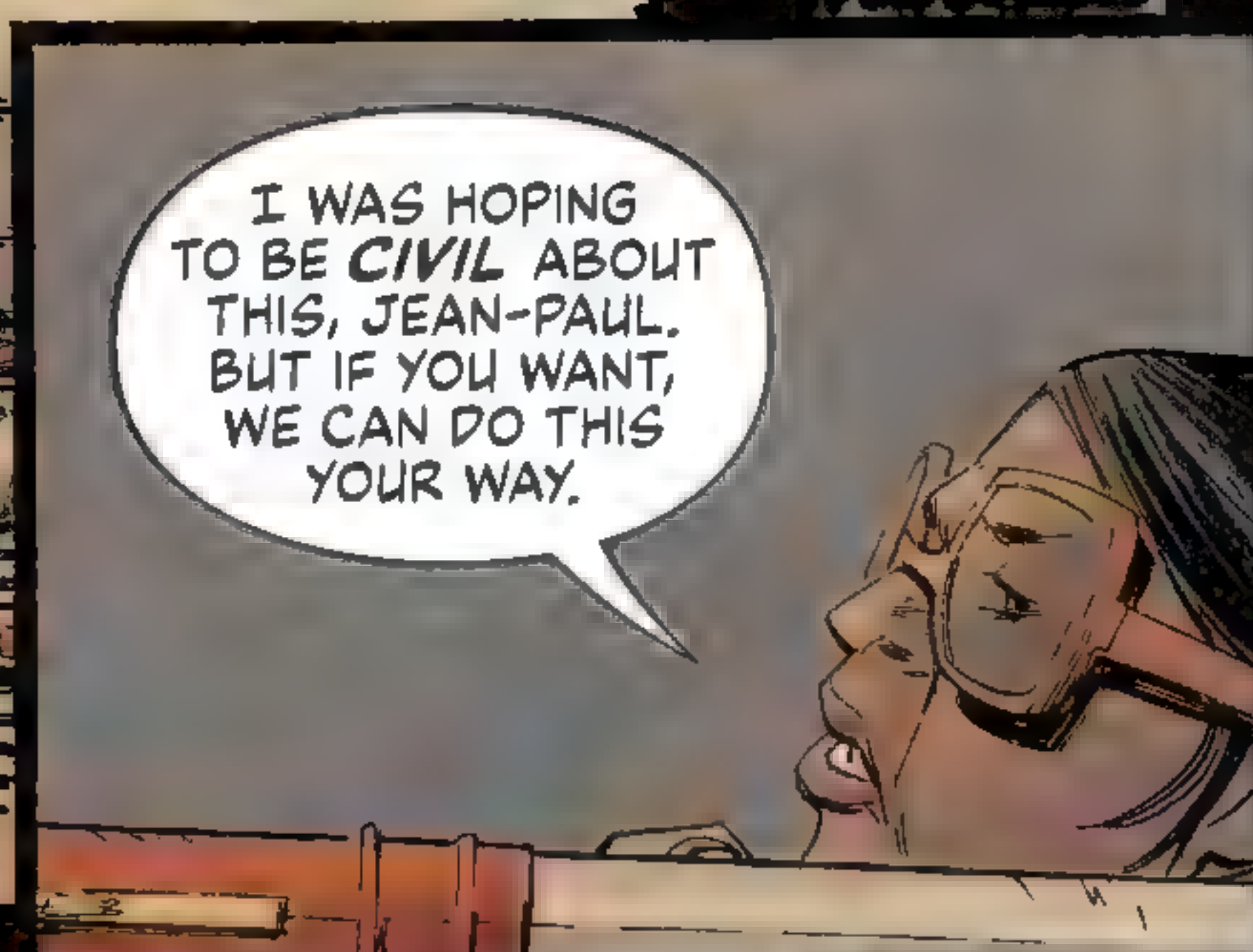


"FROM HIS
MOUTH COMES
A SHARP
SWORD...

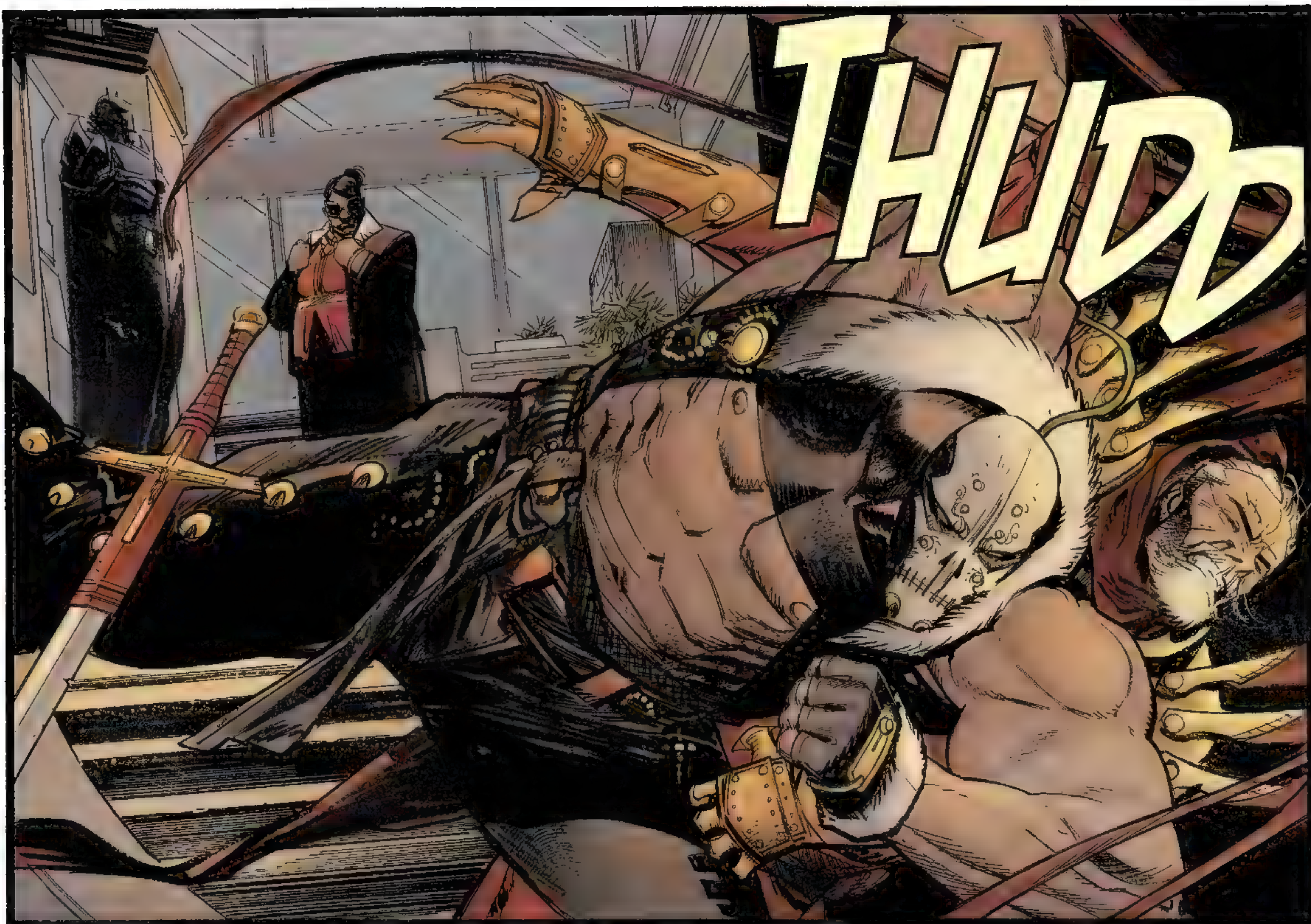
"...WITH WHICH
TO STRIKE DOWN
THE NATIONS...

"...AND HE
WILL RULE THEM
WITH A ROD OF
IRON."

REVELATIONS.



I WAS HOPING
TO BE **CIVIL** ABOUT
THIS, JEAN-PAUL.
BUT IF YOU WANT,
WE CAN DO THIS
YOUR WAY.



YOU KNOW I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY JOKER WOULD WANT A HOMELESS, CANCEROUS JESUS FREAK TO GO AFTER SOMEONE AS TOUGH AS BATMAN.



BUT THEN I REALIZED JOKER DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO **WIN**--HE JUST WANTED YOU TO SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO UPEND EVERYTHING ABOUT **BRUCE WAYNE**.

SO I HIRED BANE--TO TAKE OVER WHEN YOU **FAILED**.

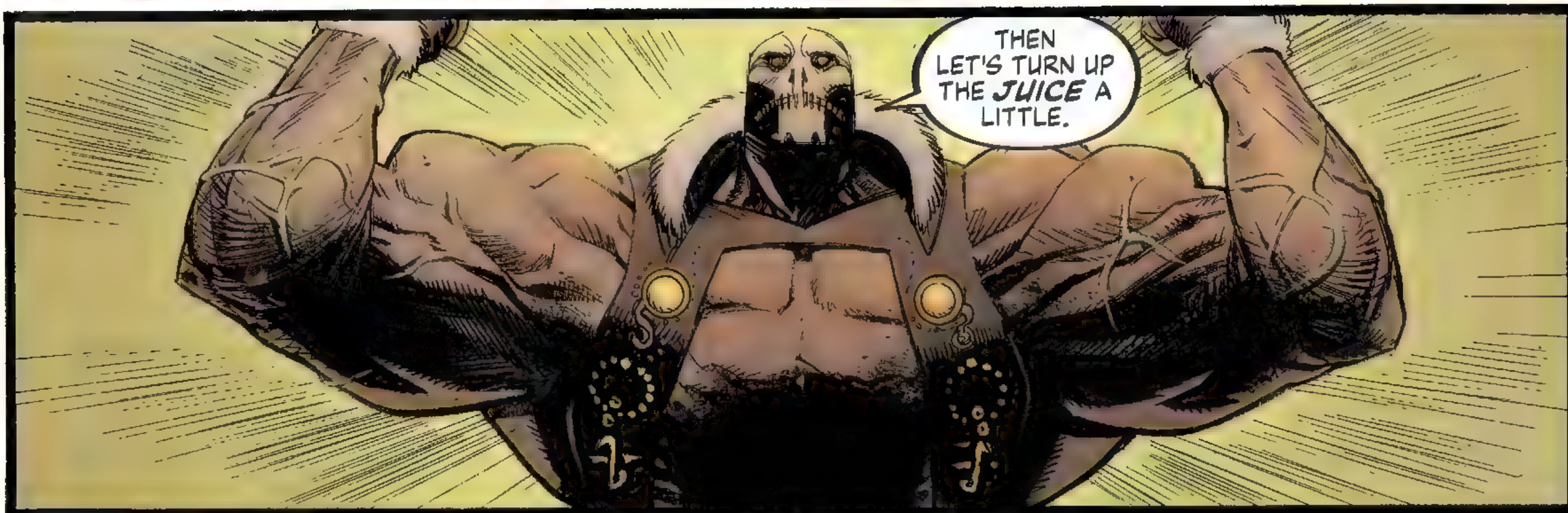
THOW



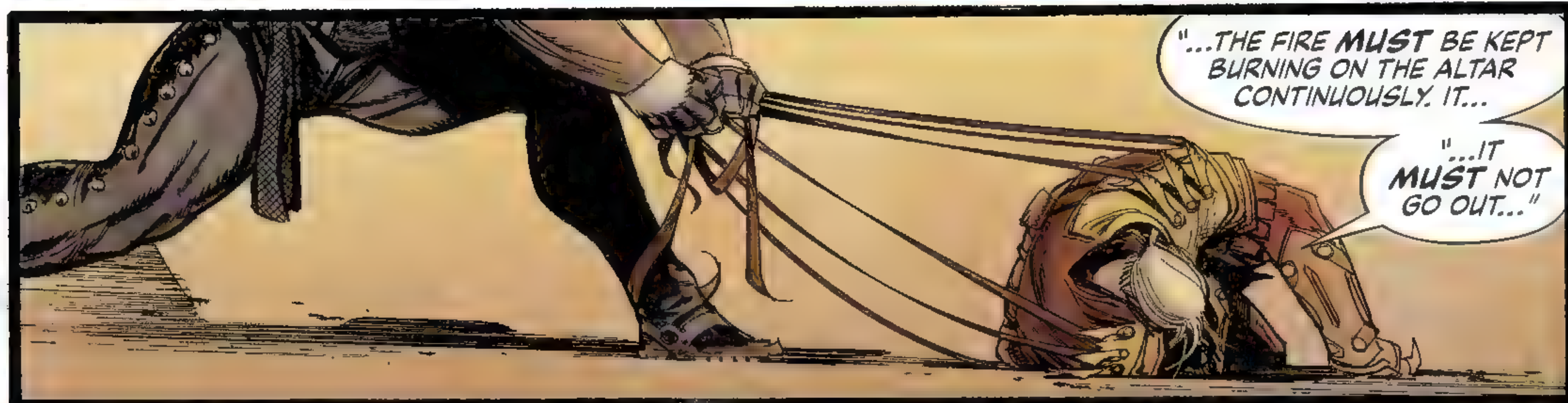
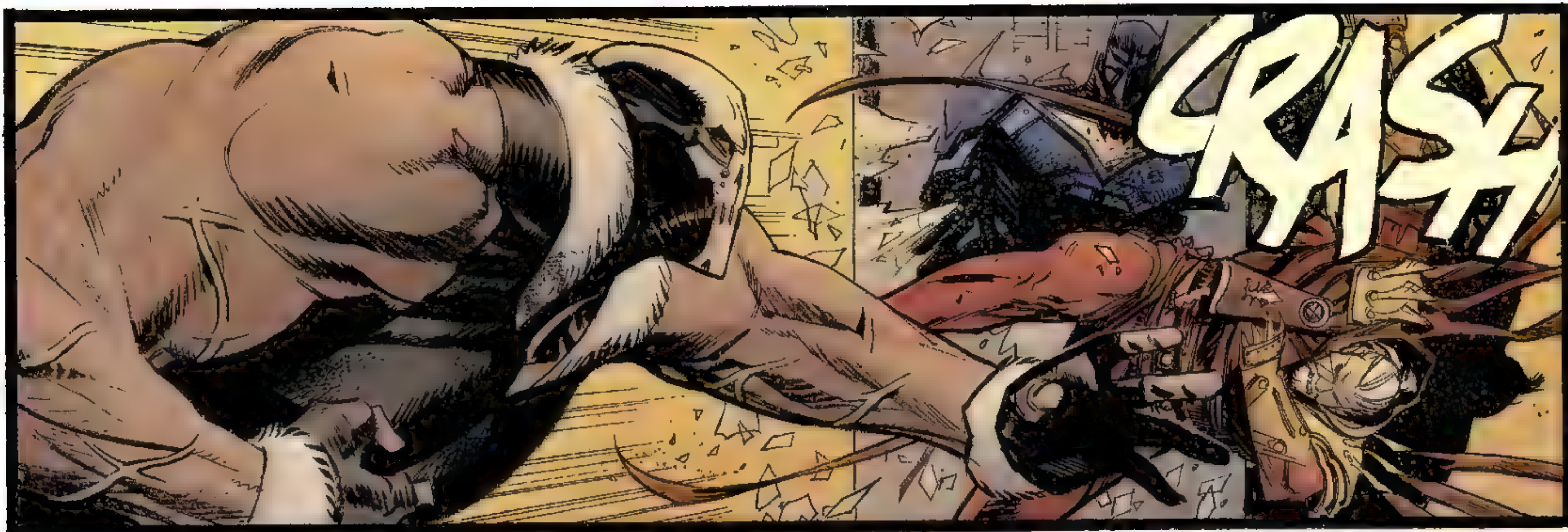
MERCENARIES ARE **WEAK**--THEY ONLY WORSHIP MONEY.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

YOU THINK I'M WEAK?



THEN LET'S TURN UP THE **JUICE** A LITTLE.







BRING HER
OVER HERE.

JEAN-PAUL--
PLEASE DON'T.

SHOVE!



SHINK

THERE'S A
SPECIAL FORM OF
NAPALM INSIDE THE
SCABBARD. WHEN I
PULL THE SWORD, I
PUSH A BUTTON
WHICH IGNITES
THE BLADE.



SHINK

IF I
DON'T PUSH
THE BUTTON,
THEN NO
FLAMES.

JP, PLEASE
DON'T DO
THIS...



BUT IT'S STILL
COATED IN NAPALM,
SO IT CAN STILL BE
IGNITED, EVEN BY
SOMETHING AS
SMALL AS A
CANDLE--

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?!

I WANT A LIST
OF YOUR CLIENTS.
THE NAMES OF
EVERY ELITE.

WHAT
FOR?

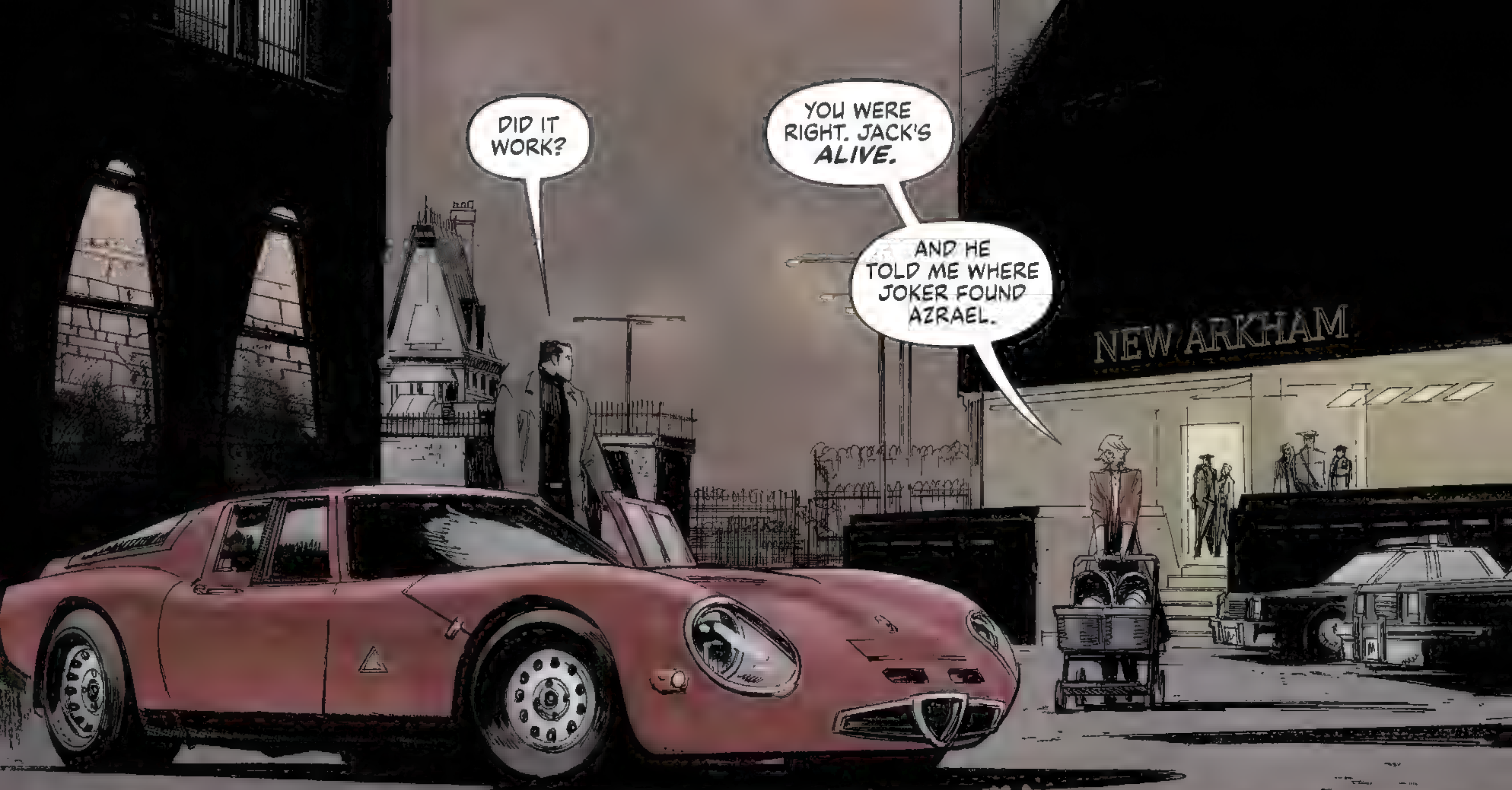
"NOW LISTEN, YOU
RICH PEOPLE, WEEP
AND WAIL BECAUSE
OF THE MISERY THAT
IS COMING ON
YOU.

"YOUR WEALTH HAS
ROTTED, AND MOTHS
HAVE EATEN YOUR
CLOTHES. YOUR GOLD
AND SILVER ARE
CORRODED...

"...AND THAT
CORROSION
WILL EAT YOUR
FLESH LIKE
FIRE."

WAIT, I'LL
TELL YOU!

I WOULD
HURRY.



DID IT
WORK?

YOU WERE
RIGHT. JACK'S
ALIVE.

AND HE
TOLD ME WHERE
JOKER FOUND
AZRAEL.

NEW ARKHAM



GOOD
WORK.

WHAT
ABOUT THE
MESSAGE
ON THE
WALL?



...
HE
DOESN'T
KNOW.

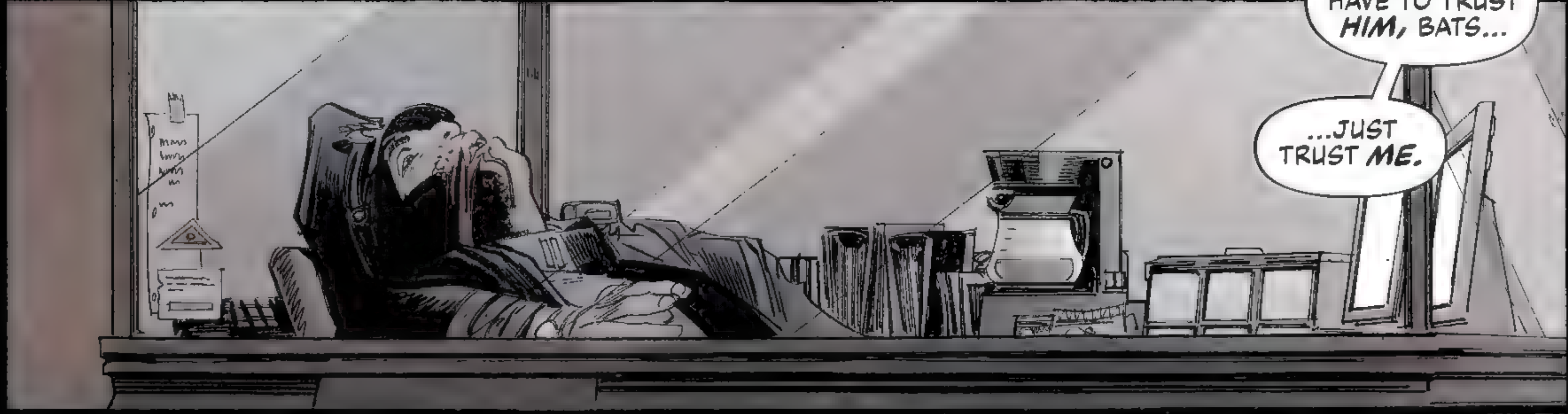
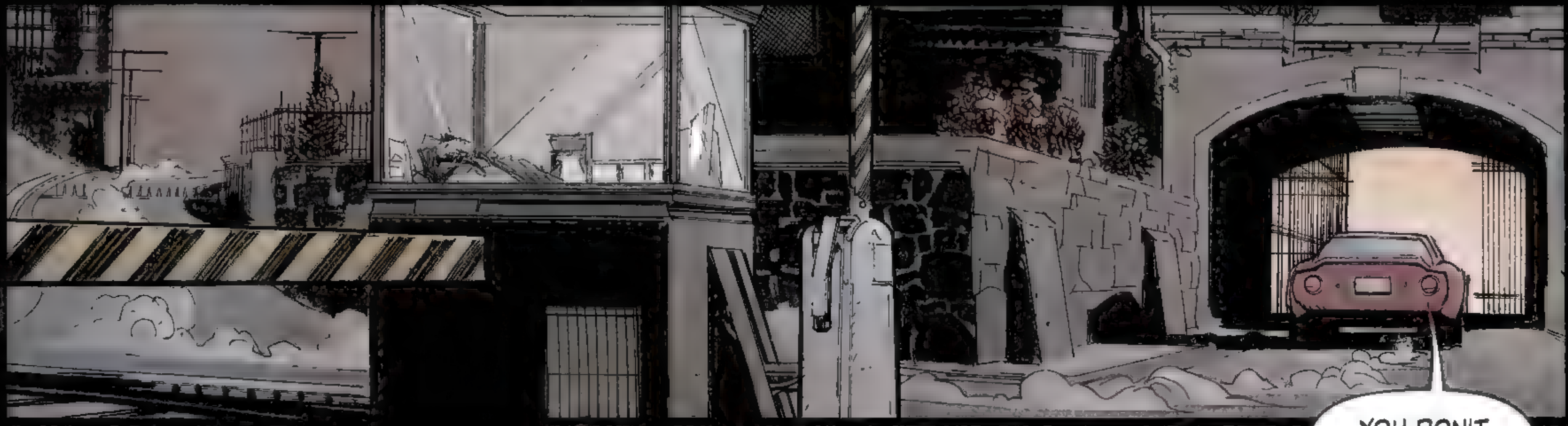


BUT JACK SAID
HE'LL TRY TO HELP
US IN OTHER
WAYS.

HOW?

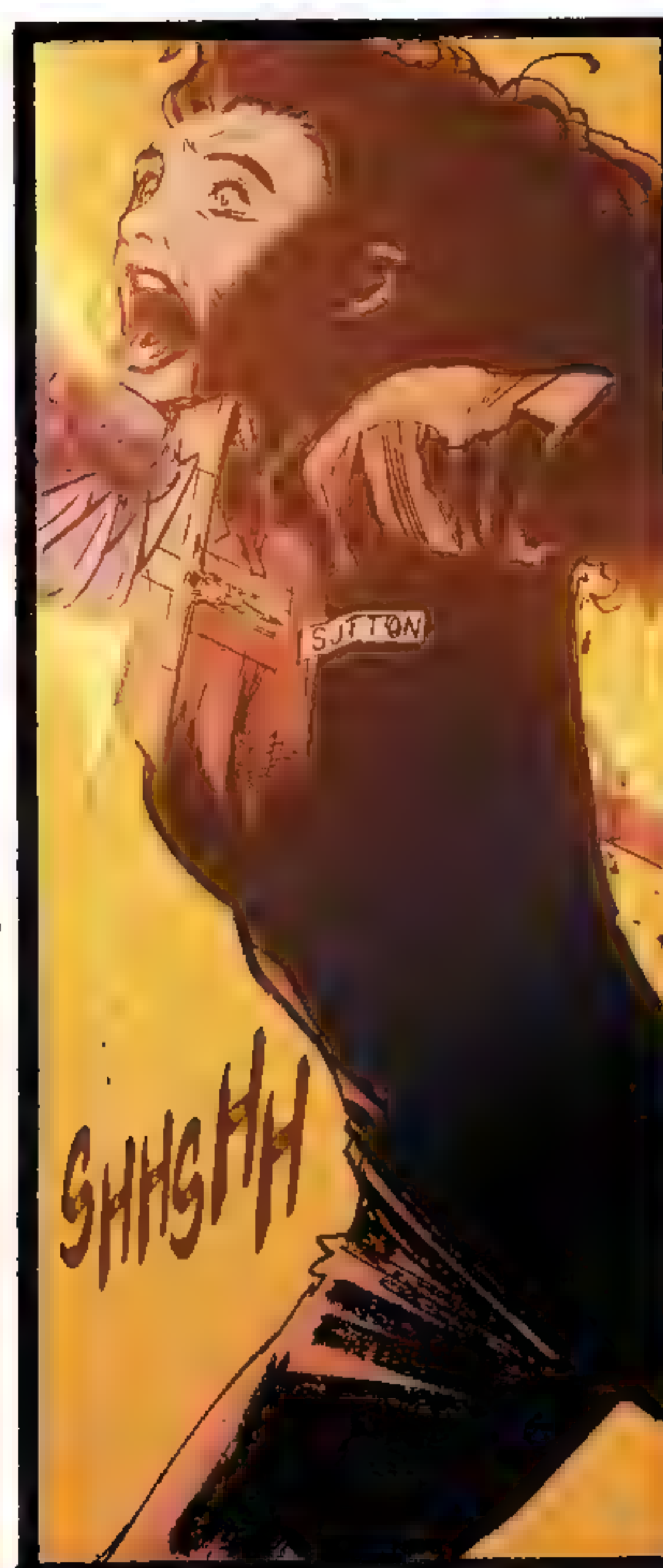
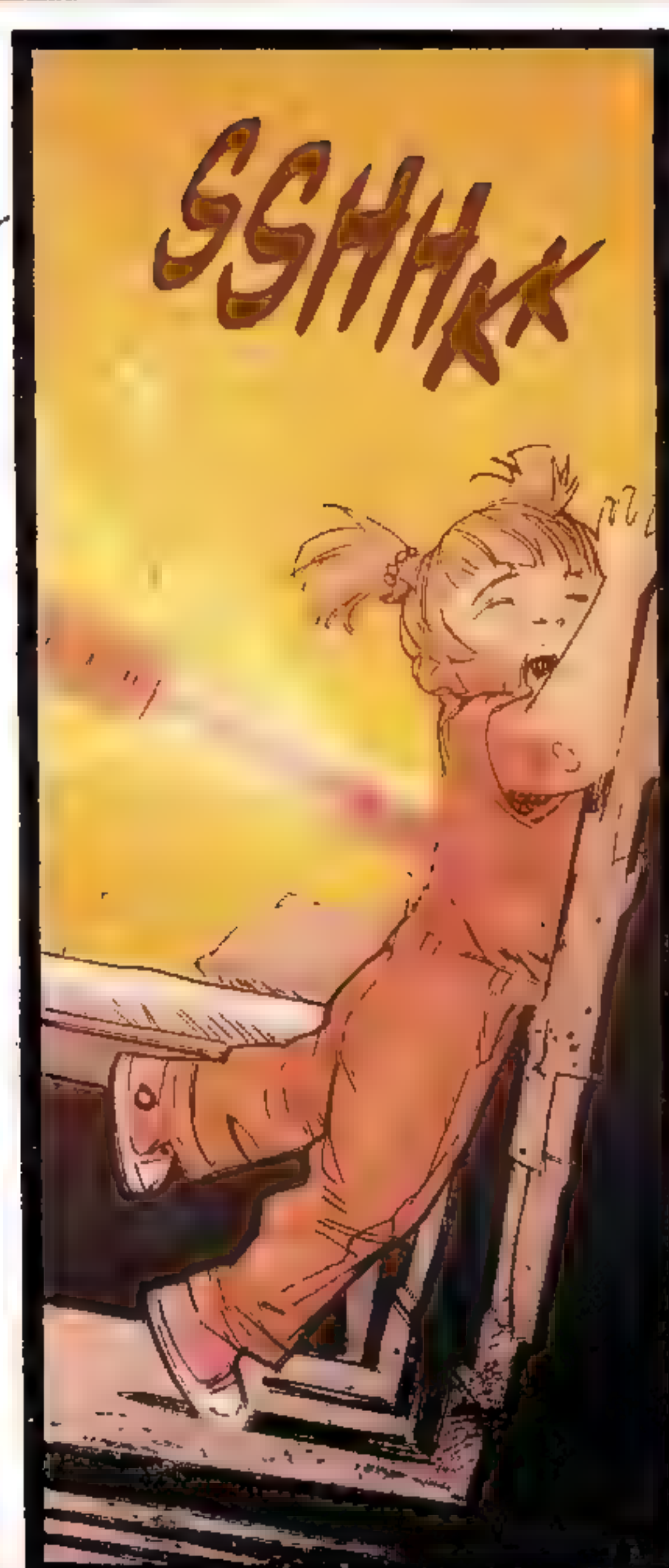
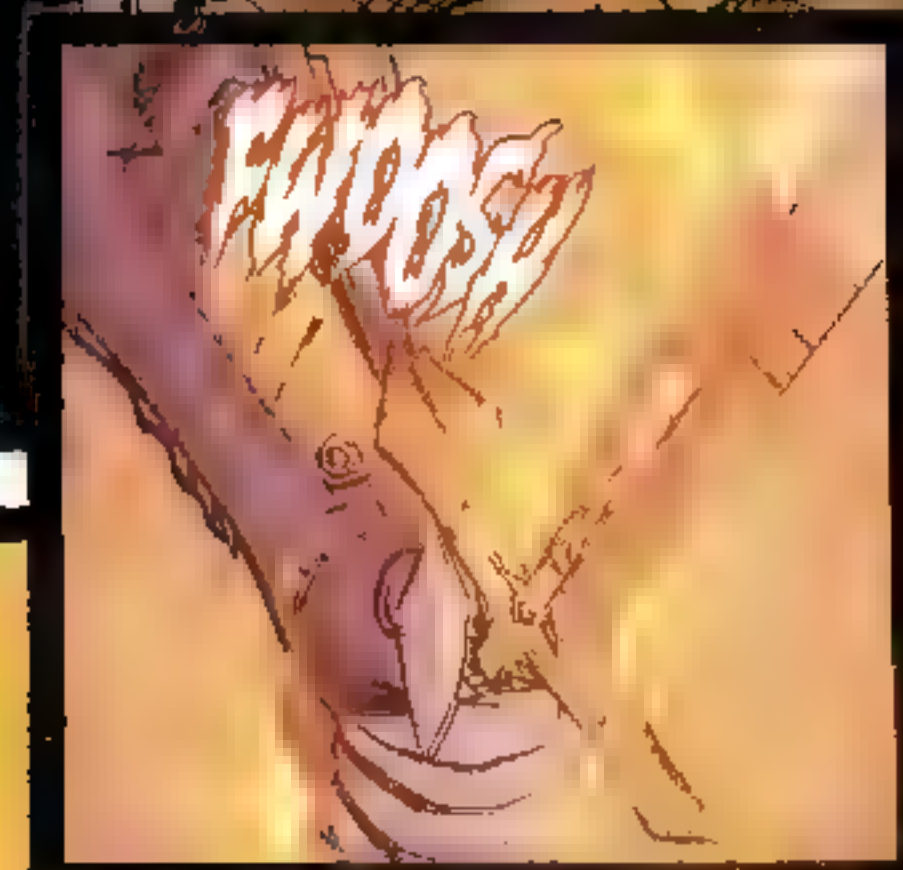
I DON'T
KNOW--WE'LL
JUST HAVE TO
WAIT AND
SEE.

HOW CAN
WE TRUST
HIM?



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO TRUST
HIM, BATS...

...JUST
TRUST ME.

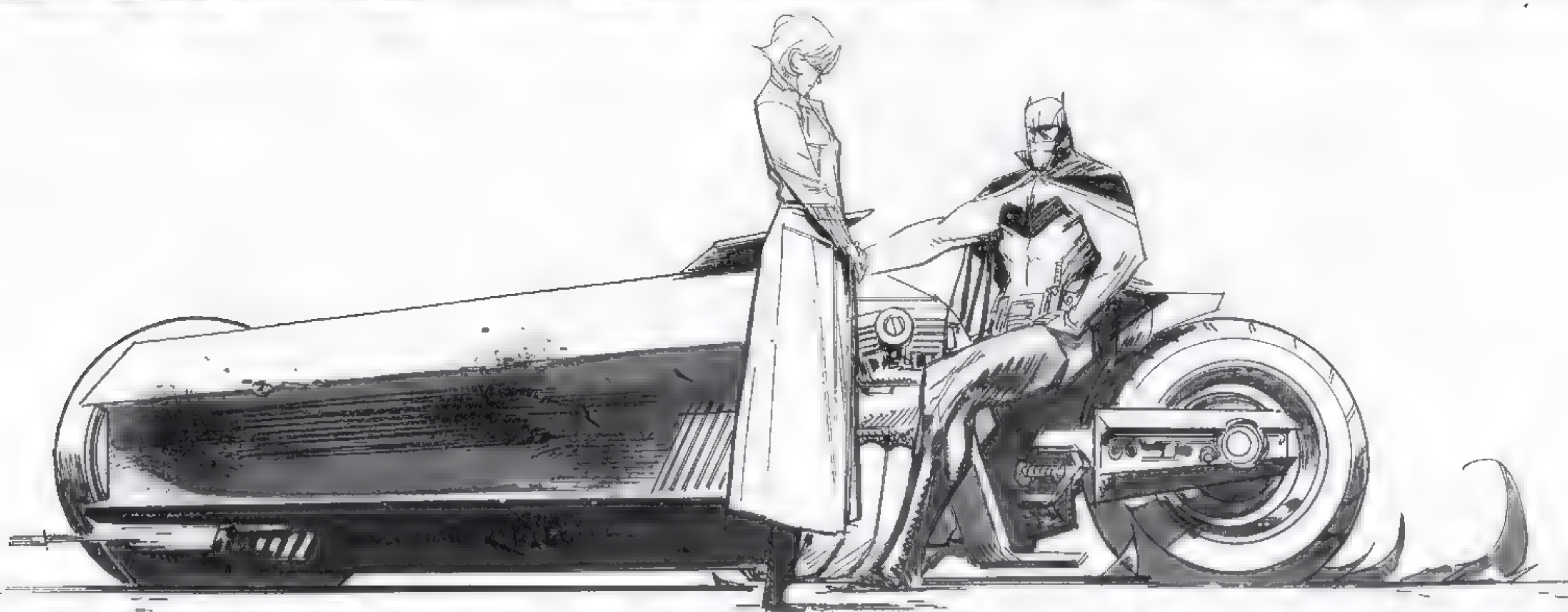
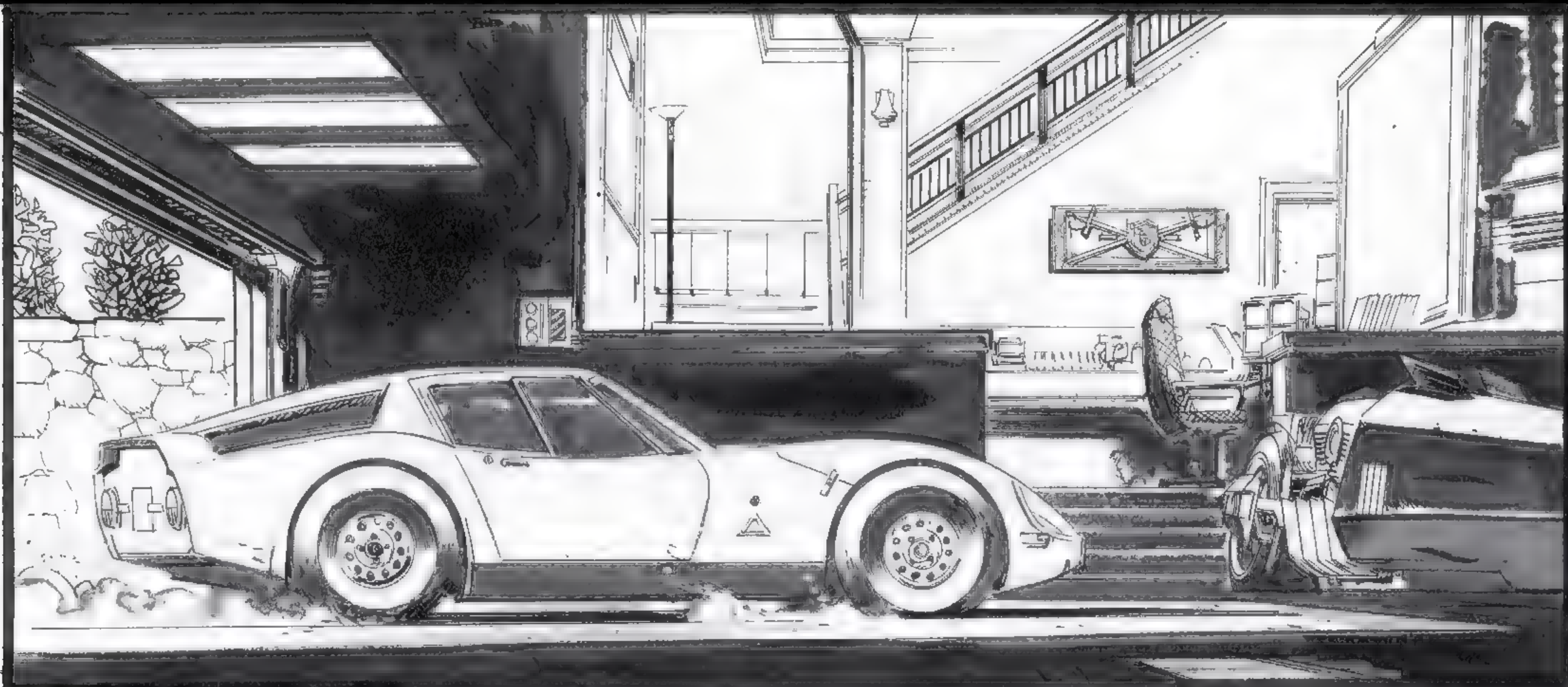


...I'M
BATMAN.



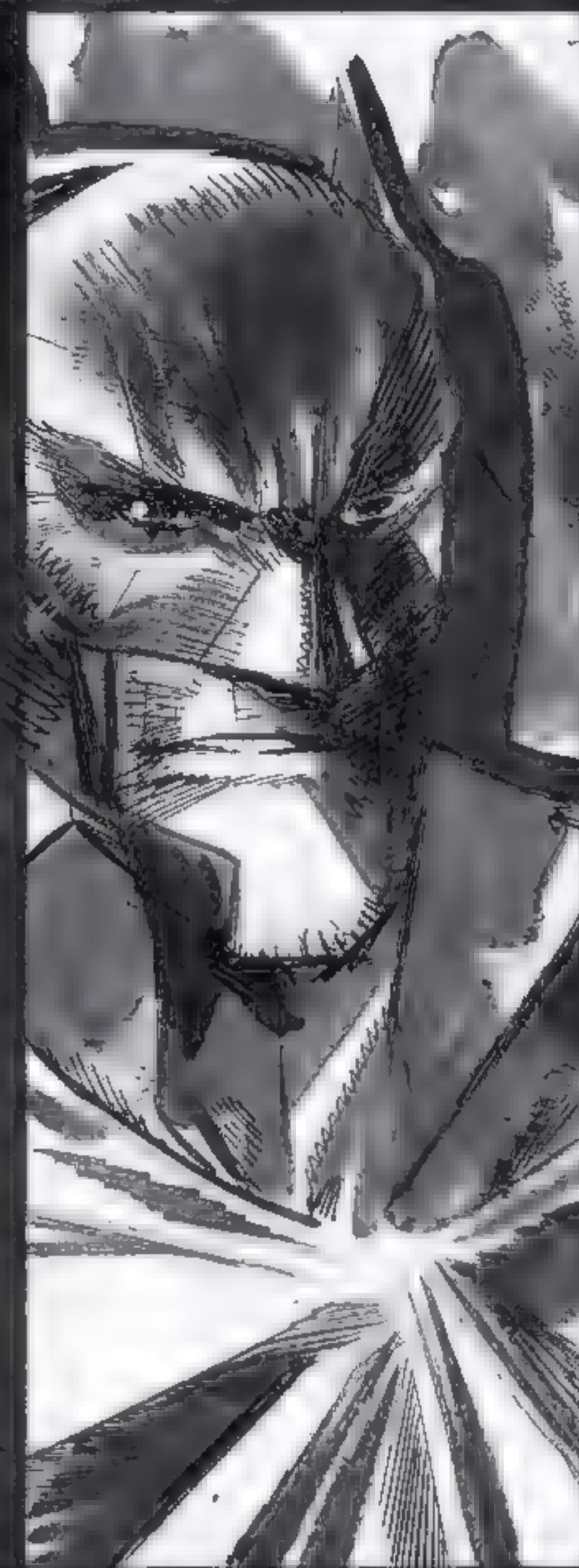
NEXT ISSUE:

Black-and-white art for BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT #6 by Sean Murphy



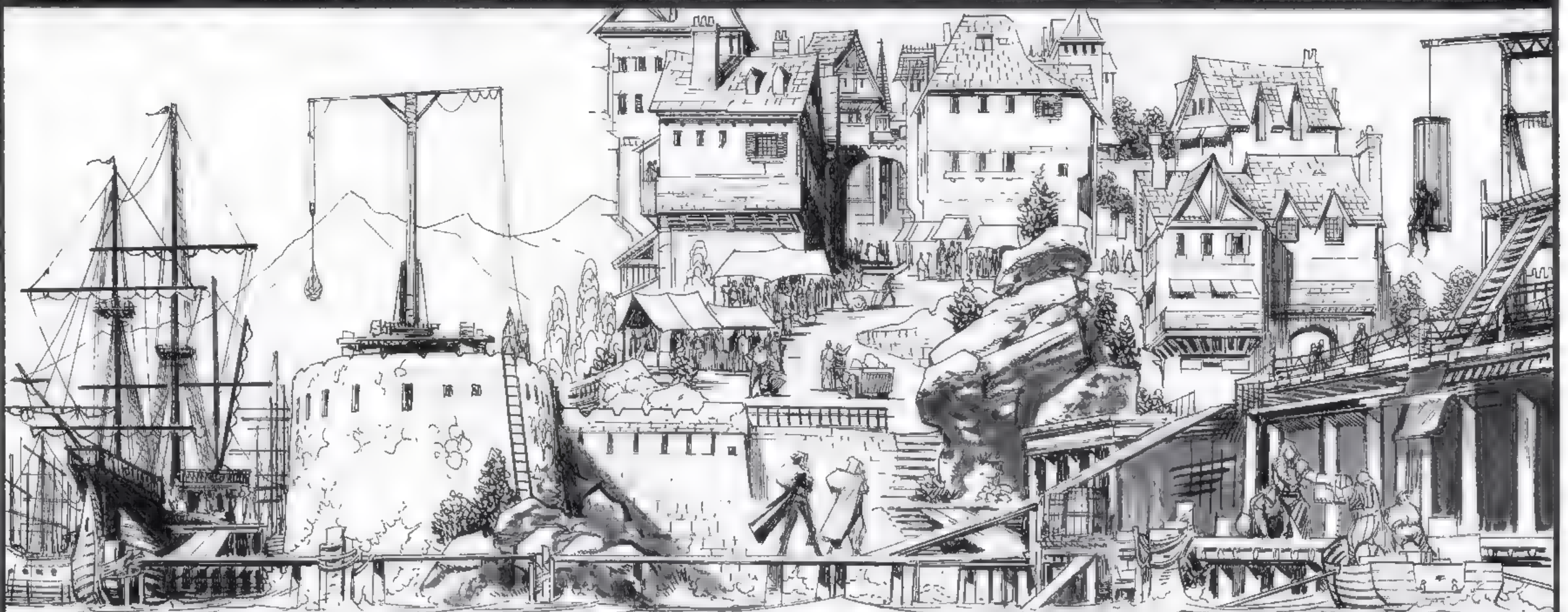
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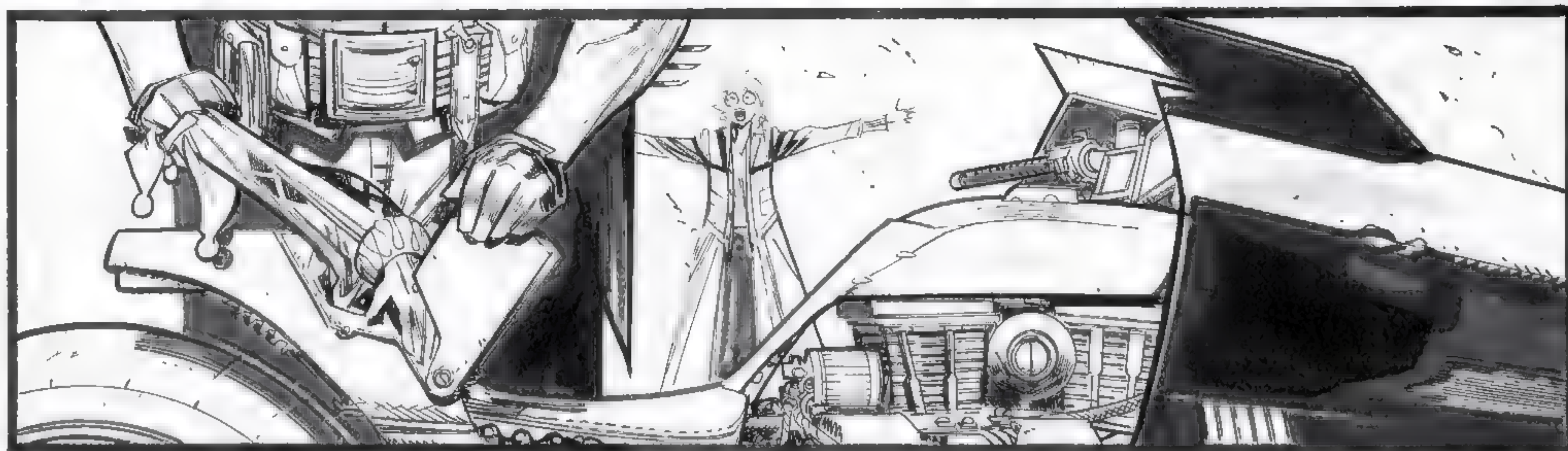
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NEXT ISSUE:

Black-and-white art for BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT #6 by Sean Murphy



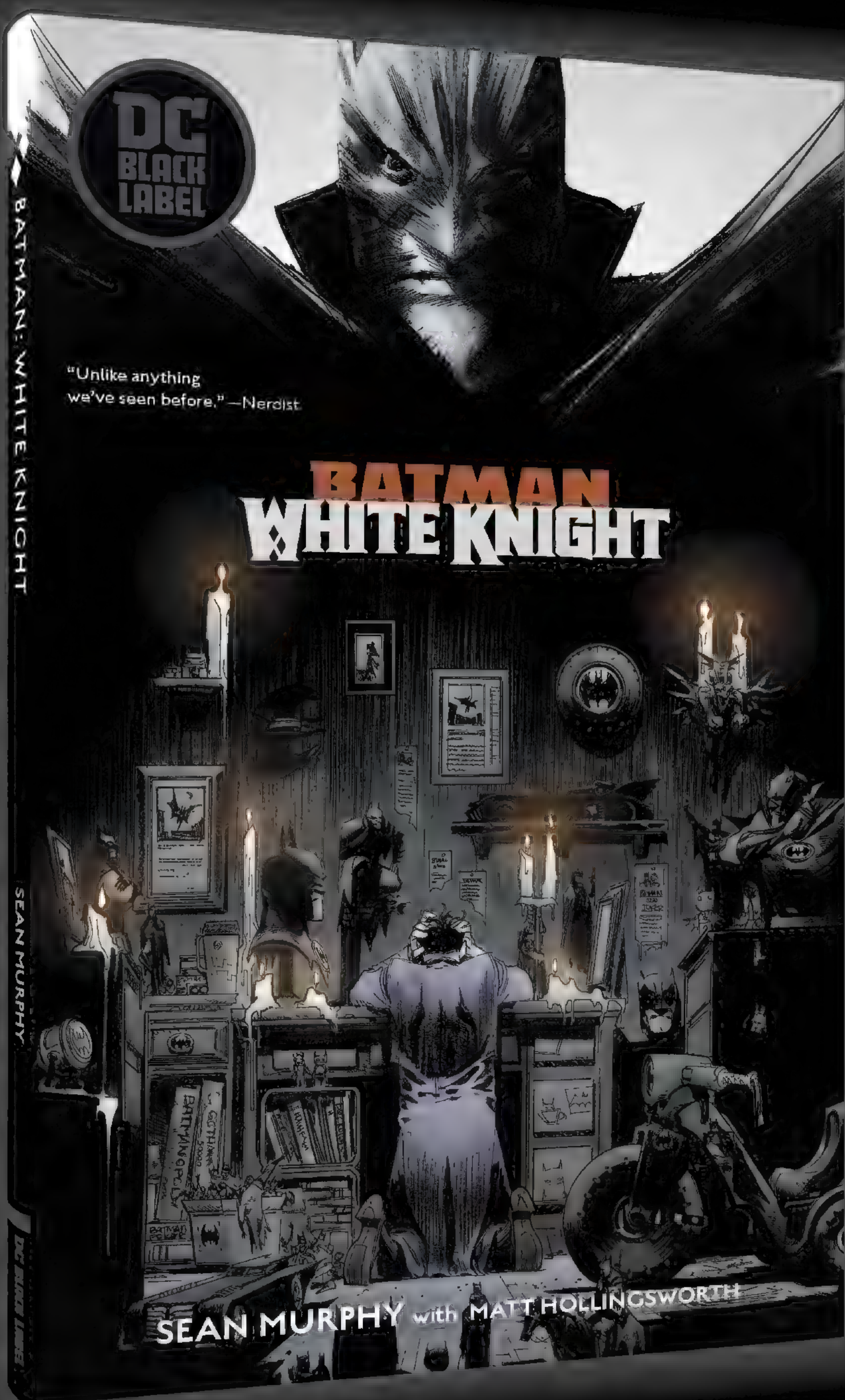


BATGIRL

Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY

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we've seen before." —Nerdist

BATMAN WHITE KNIGHT

SEAN MURPHY with MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

"Cinematic
and graphic."

—A.V. Club

"Murphy
was truly
born to draw
Batman."

—IGN

"A breakout
hit."

—SyFy Wire

"Holy cow
do you get
your
money's
worth."

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